

UPCOMING EXHIBITIONS AND EVENTS

November 27 7.30pm

Visit to Australian Recycled Timber

Venue: 45 Fabio Ct Campbellfield VIC
3061. www.australianrecycledtimber.com.au/.
John Monument will don the chef's hat and provide a gourmet BBQ.



November 30 1.00pm-5.00pm

CNC Programming Workshop

Venue: 5 Tyrone Street, North Melbourne.

Sam Johnson will be running a CNC workshop on using Rhino 3D Software, and operating the newly acquired Multicam CNC overhead router. All members are welcome to attend.

December 11 7.30pm

Christmas Drinks.

Venue: At the Metropolitan Hotel, corner Courtney and Blackwood Street, North Melbourne.

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

President's Report

VWA members,

Spring has sprung and not a moment too soon. Our AGM is upon us, which unfortunately I will be unable to attend due to family commitments.

Winter has been extremely busy for the VWA. Our membership, workshop, meeting, exhibition, publication, insurance, education, tenant and web programs are all going very well. We are in a secure financial and administrative position. Like the season's new blossoms, all our activities are growing.



By way of thanks I would like to draw your attention to the remarkable work that your committee has been doing this year.

Jerome Wielens, Vice President and Chair of the school sub-committee, has worked tirelessly for the VWA. There are endless issues involved in running a woodworking school, from materials supply to staffing, and Jerome takes them all in his stride. Jerome is an incredibly capable, generous and patient person whose perspective and advice I respect and appreciate greatly.

VWA Secretary, Stephen Farquhar, continues to develop the VWA's web presence. His focus is both external, managing the interface between the public and the VWA, and internal, as the connection between the tenants and the committee. Stephen's creativity and skill in digital communications has both opened the organisation to a wider audience and streamlined the VWA's operations. His ability to empathise with the tenants and students and articulate an emerging professional woodworker's reality to the committee is key to the functioning of such a complex organisation as ours. A secretary of Stephen's ability and passion is an extraordinary asset to the VWA and his work is recognised and appreciated by the entire committee.

Both Jerome and Stephen began their connection to the VWA as students of the school. Both are passionate students of woodcraft and have extended that interest to the VWA. This is a good thing. One moves from a consumer of a service to a contributor.

Treasurer Rob Allan runs a tight ship and presents the numbers in a clear and effective way. It is a huge challenge to rigorously manage the finances of an organisation with so many arms. Rob performs this task with great diligence. Rob also reports on the activities of the Council of Woodworking Clubs to the VWA, and provides invaluable advice and experience to the committee. Rob travels a very long way to help the VWA and we appreciate it greatly.

Will Matthysen, craftsman extraordinaire, has taken charge of the newsletter and the meeting programme. Will saw the need to have a regular newsletter and took responsibility for it. The news is such an important part of the VWA. It is key to our meeting program, which goes from strength to strength. Will's ability to connect with the woodworking community is a primary asset of the VWA. Let's be frank: when one thinks of the VWA, one thinks of Will. Mr Matthysen is a national treasure.

John Monument and Libby O'Brian run the exhibition program of the VWA. Perhaps the most difficult of all our activities, exhibitions stands as a central pillar of our organisation. The opportunity to exhibit work is key to the life of a creative person. It is key to the elevation of the practice and the material. There have been very few opportunities to exhibit woodcraft in recent years. Libby and John have made sure the VWA continues to exhibit members' work through our participation in the Timber and Working With Wood Show and the Storm Wood exhibition. John and Libby's relentless energy, passion and commitment to exhibiting have significantly expanded the VWA's horizon. Our exhibition program is booming and it is going to continue to flourish. The plans are made; the galleries are booked. We are going to have a regular exhibition program to showcase our members' work.

Libby and John have had the good fortune of Ward Petherbridge. Ward comes to the VWA as a private collector of fine woodwork and as a professional recycler of timber. Ward is the heartbeat of our exciting 'Create from a Crate' exhibition, which will open in February 2014. Details are available on the web. In short, Ward puts in. Ward recognised the untapped potential of a readily available timber resource; he imagines a high end use for it. So he joins the committee and gets it done.

Similarly Sam Johnston, committee member and workshop tenant, deserves our praise for his approach. Sam's interest in woodwork comes from his industrial and landscape design background. He has a very clear idea of linking a craftsman's material knowledge of wood with micro industrial process to create beautiful furniture. CNC machine technique is central to his craft. Sam joined the committee a year ago and began a discussion about the appropriateness or otherwise of the VWA investing in a CNC machine. The committee agreed with Sam that a CNC machine is an important and valuable tool in modern woodwork and approved the purchase on one. So Sam researched and found a machine, which the VWA has purchased. The machine is now operable. The machine is now an asset of the VWA, which is fantastic, but the true asset is Sam and his initiative. In an honorary organization, someone's got to do the work and Sam we thank you very much.

Mark Wakeham and Andrew Potocnik offer the committee fantastic professional experience. Mark from a legal and woodworking point of view and Andrew as an internationally renowned wood turner and educator. Andrew's contribution to the newsletter is also very much appreciated. His correspondent at large pieces are wonderful. Both Mark and Andrew's input is of the highest quality, making the VWA the considered well-rounded organisation that it is.

I would like to thank Meg Allan for her great work. Meg handles the VWA's insurance, membership and school enrolments with intelligence and efficiency. Thank you, Meg.

The tutors - I thank you one and all.

Since the recent AGM I am also pleased to announce that we have two new committee members, Randall Kohn and Stephen Ziguras. Both Randall and Stephen are highly experienced designers and makers, and I am sure will make a significant contribution to the VWA. We welcome you on board.

As you can see there is a lot going on and hands are needed. I encourage you to get involved be part of it.

It is an honour and privilege to have served as president of the VWA and I thank you for your support.

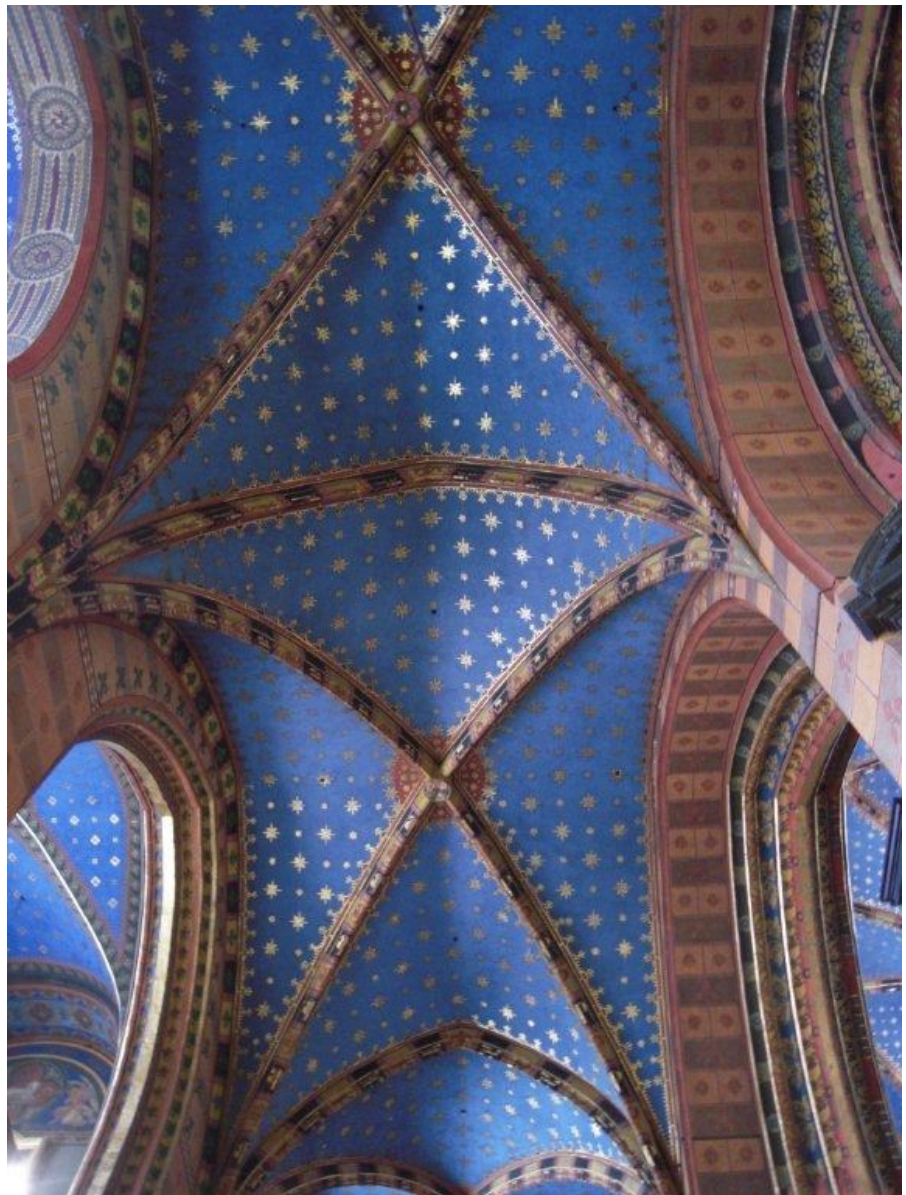
Thanks,
Damien Wright

Veit Stoss -Master Carver of the 15th century.

By Andrew Potocnik

Following Susan Wraight's fantastic presentation on the intricate world of Netsuke carving and her reference to a finely carved figurine dating back to the 15th century, created by a German carver named Veit Stoss, I couldn't help but recall my recent exposure to Stoss's work in Krakow a couple of months ago...

Every city in the world has its iconic building, each with a different story to tell. In Krakow, Poland, it is St. Mary's Basilica, a Gothic church constructed from approximately 1221 before completion early in the 15th century. With two towers reaching 69 and 81 metres high the Basilica poses an impressive presence in the city's central Grand Square.





Stepping inside, one realises there's more to this building than its beautiful architecture, for it houses one of the most magnificent examples of Gothic carving surviving in Europe today. The Altar of St Mary consists of a series of panels assembled to form a triptych with hinged doors, which when opened fully span 13m wide and 11 m high. Sculpted by renowned German carver Veit Stoss, the painted and gilded figures in the central panel stand 2.7 m tall, each carved from a single tree trunk of lime wood (linden). Other parts are made of oak and the background is of larch.



Divided into several panels, the figures depict various stages of the Virgin Mary's life, with the main section showing her dying in the arms of an apostle. Above, one can see her ascension into heaven and her Coronation by the Holy Family. At the base of the altarpiece you find carved figures representing her family tree while the winged panels have relief scenes from the life of the Holy Family on the inside, but once closed one can see twelve scenes of Mary's suffering.

Wandering around the Basilica, one is bewildered by the vast array of carvings, gilded and painted holy figures, grotesque creatures staring down from high places, or simply ornate pews. A woodworking enthusiast could spend days exploring this building





and still find more details that escaped initial attention, such as another altar also carved by Stoss which depicts six scenes in the life of St. Stanislaus, patron saint of Poland and the first native countryman to be canonized.

Around 1941, whilst under German World War II occupation, the main altar was dismantled and moved to the Third Reich, where it stayed until finally being found again in 1945, hidden in the basement of the heavily bombed Nuremburg Castle. The High Altar underwent major restoration before being returned to the Krakow Basilica some ten years later.



Stoss was born in Nuremburg, Germany around 1440, but later moved to Krakow where he established a large workshop employing suitably skilled fellow carvers, painters and gilders who could help him complete some of his major undertakings.

He lived and worked here for 19 years, twelve of which (1477 to 1489) were devoted to the creation of what is considered by some to be his greatest work, the altar of St. Mary. When he eventually returned to Nuremburg, Stoss went on to create other major commissions; however, only some of the vast array of carvings attributed to him were his work.

No doubt there are works attributed to him that may well be products of his workshop assistants, as was the way of the time; however, there are also intricate finely carved pieces that are evidence of this great master carver's skill that cannot be ignored – grand or small.



Virgin and Child, about 1500-1505, Height 20.3 x 7 x 6 cm. Victoria & Albert Museum.

CREATE FROM A CRATE 2014



Arrangements for our coming Create from a Crate exhibition have now been finalized. The exhibition will be held from 8th – 23rd of February, 2014 at the:

Hatch Contemporary Arts Space

14 Ivanhoe Pde, Ivanhoe, VIC 3079

Tuesday - Saturday 10am - 5pm

Free Entry

<http://www.banyule.vic.gov.au/hatch/>

The VWA are happy to announce that the Exhibition will also gain exposure outside metropolitan Melbourne and be hosted from 27th February-16th March, 2014 at the:

Ballarat Backspace Gallery

Huygue House, Alfred Deakin Place

15 Camp Street, Ballarat.

The Ballarat Backspace Gallery is the contemporary art space associated with the Ballarat Regional Art Gallery.

The VWA will arrange for transport of the exhibits from Ivanhoe to Ballarat.

Please note the following:

- Closing date for entering the competition was 31st October, 2013, and entry to the competition is now closed.
- Pieces are to be finished by 20th, January, 2014.
- Information for the catalogue must be received by 20th, January, 2014.
- 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>

CNC Machine for the VWA Workshop in North Melbourne

Our CNC overhead router has recently been installed in our Wood Design Centre workshop, and is up and running and already producing amazing work. It is a Multicam M-1 model, with a 1.0 x 1.2 m bed, which is capable of producing a range of 2 and 3 dimensional work. We also acquired a new more powerful computer together with Rhino 3D software to do the computer modelling.

The machine is capable of a lot more than simple signage shown in the brochure below. Together with powerful software, complex integrated joinery and curved shapes can be produced.

It is the intension that all VWA members will have access to the CNC router. Initially Sam will be responsible for running the machine, and will undertake training of those members that wish to use it for their own projects.



An introductory lesson by Sam Johnson will be held on November 30th from 1.00 to 5.00pm at the Wood Design Centre, 5 Tyrone Street, North Melbourne.

FOR SALE \$1000

Used Powermatic DDS-225 Dual Drum Sander, from the VWA workshop, North Melbourne. The four drive lead screws and threaded bushings to adjust the table height need to be replaced. Please contact the secretary at: secretary@vwa.org.au.



New Committee member profiles

Stephen Ziguras

While I've been designing and making furniture for more than a decade, my life as a woodworker began in earnest in 2010 when my partner and I were living in Denmark. I established *Eco wood design* in Copenhagen, specialising in custom-designed and built furniture.

I use recycled Australian timber when I can, as well as other sources such as plywood and sustainability sourced timbers. In making the pieces I design, I use a combination of traditional methods such as dovetails, as well as more modern techniques, like biscuit joinery.

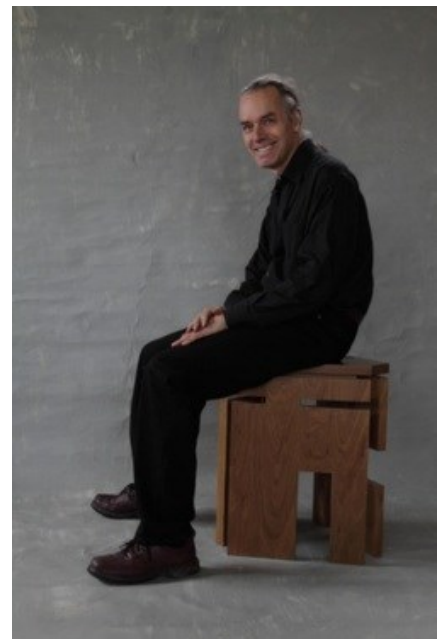


Returning from Copenhagen to Melbourne in early 2013, I brought the business with me, and I now work from my workshop in Brunswick, where I design and make furniture to order and homewares such as the K Bowls. You can see examples of my work at www.ecowooddesign.com.au

Randal Kohn

My vocational background began in the world of steel. After buying some portable wood working tools I was seduced by timber. Then I wanted more power to shape and work it, so I bought stationary machines. Then I wanted more accuracy in replication so I got into CNC. I have a keen interest in all design genres, as the 'imagined made into form', (our economy is based on this) with an eye on the use of timber and reconstituted timber product into the future. In my own modest workshop I continue to play with timber discovering ways to transform it into the shapes I want while learning and respecting its dictates.

I have spent a considerable amount of time in and around the building and construction industry working on various aspects of construction and fit out, from design to installation. These days my focus is on replication. It's a very different design approach when efficiencies in manufacture become paramount.



My site www.randalkohn.com.au

Current VWA Committee and Contacts:

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|-------------------------------|------------------|--------------|
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| Committee Member | John Monument | 0417 119 946 |
| Committee Member | Andrew Potocnik | 0419 875 811 |
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| Committee Member | Randall Kohn | 0438 132 644 |
| Committee Member | Stephen Ziguras | 0405 668 779 |