



VICTORIAN WOOD  
WORKERS ASSOCIATION

# The Cutting Edge

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April 2011

42 Courtney St Nth. Melbourne Vic 3051

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## From the Editor

I hope you received your December 2010 newsletter and had no problems reading and printing it. If there were problems tell me about them. Tell me also if you know of a member who didn't receive their copy by email. You can read the newsletter in *Adobe Acrobat Reader* or *Preview* on a Mac and print it. The planned February edition didn't happen but I should be able to manage a bi-monthly publication from now on. Always looking for interesting material for publication. I would encourage you to write something and take a few photographs of your woodworking and craft activities. You can send material for possible publication to the editor's email address below. Love to hear from you!

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

## From The President's Report      William Matthysen

The new committee has made steady progress during the past few months getting the VWA house in order.

### ***Wood Design Centre.***

Meg Allan has taken over organisation and running of VWA woodwork classes. Meg is setting up a consistent system - advertising classes, enrolling students, ensuring fees are paid on time, co-ordinating with tutors, monitoring student progress and getting student feedback. We have tightened up on occupational health and safety procedures. Our tutor Carl Lutz is now responsible for ensuring that all our machines are adequately maintained and tools kept sharpened. Each class will now be responsible for cleaning up after a session. We have instituted a zero tolerance policy to ensure that everyone cleans up after themselves in the kitchen and workshop spaces. The days of leaving a mess behind and expecting someone else to clean up are over!

We are pleased to announce that we have two new talented tenants in the WDC, namely Russell and Alex. Both are recent graduates from the RMIT furniture school. We welcome them to VWA and wish them a happy, productive time with us. Our secretary Stephen Farquhar continues to upgrade the website, and has received several expressions of interest from overseas students wishing to take up residency at the WDC.

*President's report continued .....*

## ***Planning Meeting 2011***

The planning group met in February to review VWA finances, woodwork classes, bi-monthly meetings, website, exhibitions and newsletter. We gathered at Rob and Meg Allan's idyllic mud brick house in the bush near Tolmie. More correctly, it is Rob's copious woodwork shed - pictured below - with a house attached. Thank you Meg and Rob for your hospitality.



New and longstanding members contributed a diversity of skills and knowledge to the discussions.

The group decided our first task is to consolidate VWA activities and reconnect with members. Once we have completed this phase and established a broader base, we will be able to embark on more ambitious projects such as a major national fine furniture exhibition and convention. We reached several high water marks in the exhibitions of 1995, 1996, 2003 and 2005, and we know that we can do it again. We will continue to manage our accumulated funds prudently in consultation with members.

The meeting discussed the VWA response to floods which devastated large areas of NSW, Queensland and central Victoria where many of our insurance members live. The planning group decided the most effective way of helping flood affected members is to offer a full rebate on their public and product liability insurance for one year - one less bill to pay when trying to rebuild. I believe we have a duty of care and this is our way of helping flood affected members. *See page 8 for details.....*



*Rob Allan's workshop at Tolmie*

## Stormwood Elm

John Monument

This timber is part of the Melbourne Botanic Gardens 'Stormwood' timber donated to VWA by Melbourne City Council some 5-6 years ago. The stack somehow was diverted to a paddock near Daylesford. Your new VWA committee discovered it last year. Timber from this stack will be available to members to make pieces for this year's exhibitions including TWWS. It is mainly elm.

Sizes vary from 4m x 400 x 35 to 2.5m x 300 x 50. Some of it is crotch figured, and should clean up nicely. We also have elm blocks suitable for turning or carving.



*Air-dried "Stormwood" elm*



*John M and Will M loading the "Stormwood"*



*Elm slabs available for exhibition pieces*



*Libby O'Brien (right) is VWA Exhibitions Coordinator*

### Interested in using Stormwood?

Contact the exhibitions co-ordinator Libby O'Brien.  
[elizabeth.obrien4@bigpond.com](mailto:elizabeth.obrien4@bigpond.com)

How we divide up the timber will depend on demand.

# A Visit to Mark Tuckey Furniture

Ken Free



*Dave Schofield and some of his audience at Mark Tuckey Furniture*

On Tuesday 22 February 2011, VWA members held their bi-monthly meeting at the Thornbury workshop of Mark Tuckey Furniture. Around 30 members were present for a fascinating tour of a very successful business, with showrooms in Sydney and Melbourne and a loyal client base. They produce solid timber furniture, with an ever-changing collection of over 300 cutting edge and modern classic designs. They sell everything from chairs, tables and cabinets, to beds, storage and outdoor furniture, using new and recycled, predominantly Australian timbers.

The Workshop Manager, Dave Schofield, led us through stages in the production of solid wood furniture, 80% of which is made from recycled timber sourced from old warehouses, bridges and factories. The works in progress indicated that a variety of Australian hardwoods together with Douglas fir (aka Oregon) are the timbers of choice. As well as the large stocks of timber on hand at the Thornbury premises, there is a warehouse in Footscray full of timber. It makes the timber storage of the average VWA member look a trifle insignificant! *Continued ...*



*Turned stools, Mark Tuckey Furniture*



*Some of the VWA members*

If you were searching for one word to describe Mark Tuckey Furniture, it could be “massive”: the workshop is cavernous with ample walkways and room to move at each workstation. The furniture is of large proportions and large sections – tables up to 1.6 metres square and tabletops up to 100 millimetres thick.

There didn't seem to be room here for fine hand-cut dovetails or spindly tapered legs.



Mark Tuckey Furniture makes a range of production pieces as well as made-to-order pieces and the fact that in this workshop alone they employ 20 people and meet the costs of what must be sizeable overheads, suggests that they are doing a lot of things right. Making what the marketplace wants to buy is probably the most obvious lesson.



As usual the business of the evening was accompanied by an ample supply of nibbles and liquid refreshments and there was plenty of vigorous discussion amongst those present.

**The VWA wishes to thank Dave and Mark Tuckey Furniture for a very successful evening.**

#### **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 Ennasee   Carl Lutz**

# Student Works

Stephen Farquhar

## An Anniversary Creation by Michael Neumann

Michael and Candice, wanted to buy a wooden bench for their second wedding anniversary but could not find just the right bench. When the third wedding anniversary went by with still no garden bench, Candice googled for a woodworking class near home, discovered the VWA and surprised Michael with a woodworking class voucher for his 41st birthday.

Michael knew what he wanted to make but was not sure about the style of the bench. He said “I knew I wanted something with clean, straight lines but also rounded off intersections to make nice smooth curves where the pieces joined. I tried to keep a clean-lined design. Probably because of my German background I find the Bauhaus idea



*Michael Neumann at work in Adam Stewart's class*

that form follows function appealing. It took three or four classes to come up with a design that I was happy with. I then made a scale drawing of the side pieces of the bench – and stayed a hundred per cent true to that final drawing throughout the process. My engineering training assisted me here. As part of the design I also wanted to have some storage space underneath the bench for gardening tools and shoes.”

The bench material had to be durable for an outside garden furniture piece withstanding sun and rain. I chose Spotted Gum which fitted the bill and was available in reduced-price pieces at Urban Salvage in Spotswood.”

“During the time I was making the piece my wife became pregnant – so it was clear that the bench would be at least a three seater.



I finished the bench three weeks after my son Lukas was born. He is now six months old and we enjoy sitting together on our lovely garden bench.”

“It stands on the back veranda facing out to the garden. We like to sit on our bench and enjoy a coffee while looking at the vegies growing.”

*continued ...*

Michael joined Adam Stewart's Tuesday night classes in 2010 and completed the project over two semesters with a semester break in between. It was his first attempt at working with wood and he has produced an impressive piece. He has achieved his form and function goals and has highlighted key features in the wood.



I asked Michael if he was planning to continue with the class. "If time allows I would love to do a few more pieces. If I won a million dollars tomorrow I would most likely buy a house for my family, a few woodworking tools, quit my job and start to make my own furniture." Sentiments many of us share!

### ***Machine Room Access for VWA Members***

VWA members have an opportunity to machine their timber in the WDC machine room. Carl Lutz will be available to give an induction to the workshop machines and safety and then to supervise at the following time:

- First Sunday of the month from 9:00am
- or some other mutually agreed time

The fee to access the machine room is \$20.00 per hour. This fee covers equipment overheads and supervision.

Note that no recycled timber is to be machined in the WDC machine room.

To book time in the machine room, please contact Meg Allan on 03 5776 2178

WOOD  
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CENTRE

### **Position Available**

#### **VWA Workshop Machine Room Supervisor**

To make the VWA Machine room more accessible to members, we are seeking someone to share the role with Carl and fill the position of Machine Room Supervisor. We require someone to be available for bookings on either Saturday afternoons, or Sundays, to supervise the machine room for up to 4 hours or more depending on demand.

This is a paid role, with remuneration paid on an hourly basis.

To be accepted for the role, you are required to have woodworking machine experience. Additionally you will receive instruction from

VWA Tutor, Carl Lutz, on the specifics of the machines in the VWA Workshop.

If you are interested in this position please contact the VWA President

William Matthysen [matthysen@bigpond.com](mailto:matthysen@bigpond.com)

### **Member's Opportunity!**

Chris Herman from "Light on Landscape" <http://www.lightonlandscape.com.au> has contacted the VWA. He is seeking skilled woodworkers to work with his organisation in the production of artistic light fittings incorporating wood form.

If you are interested and would like to find out more, please contact Chris directly. Let him know you are a member of the Victorian Woodworkers Association.

Chris Herman

0414 744 736

[chris@lightonlandscape.com.au](mailto:chris@lightonlandscape.com.au)



## **Flood Rebate    Flood Rebate    Flood Rebate**

### **VWA Membership and Public & Product Liability Insurance**

Are you

- A current member
- Directly affected by floods in Qld, NSW or Vic early in 2011
- Renewing your membership and insurance between 01/09/2011 and 01/09/2012

If yes

- **VWA offers you a once-only rebate on annual fees.**

To claim the rebate

- contact Meg Allan on 03 5776 2178 or email to [rob Allan@hotkey.net.au](mailto:rob Allan@hotkey.net.au) before 1<sup>st</sup> July 2011.

## The next meeting

Tuesday April 19, 2011 at 7:30pm  
VWA General Meeting  
at the workshop site of  
**Adam Stewart**  
**261 Albert St BRUNSWICK**  
(near corner of Sydney Rd and Albert St)



*Adam Stewart's workshop*

Adam Stewart has a long history with woodworking and the VWA. He was for several years a tenant of the Wood Design Centre. Adam is a tutor at the VWA School of Woodcraft.



## Take a Note Of These

- Next meeting at Adam Stewart's workshop on April 19
- TWWWS and VWA exhibition dates: October 21 – 23, 2011  
Substantial prize money for the show
- Check out the VWA website <http://www.vwa.org.au/>

## June Meeting 28 June

### Stephen Farquhar – **Woodworking in the Internet Age**

Stephen has worked in the Information Technology field for the past 25 years.

His background includes:

- RAAF Officer – Information Technology
- Director – Ocean Internet – Established and developed one of Melbourne's first Internet Service Providers in 1995
- Director – Ice Ridge Systems – Established and developed a document production and workflow software application for the legal industry.
- Consultant – SMS Management & Technology – Management consulting to diverse industries including banking, telecommunications, public transport, federal health, and mining.



Through the VWA, Stephen has found a channel to pursue his interest in woodworking. For the past two years Stephen has been a student at the VWA School of Woodcraft and is currently the Secretary of VWA.

Stephen will present on a variety of topics under the heading of **Woodworking in the Internet age**, with a focus on recent technologies, including:

- Information sources – blogs, vlogs
- Sources of Video information and how to save those videos for later viewing
- Woodworking info on handheld devices – iPhone, Android, and applications
- Demystifying – RSS and newsfeeds
- Facebook – Do you “LIKE” it?
- Question time

If you have specific questions for Stephen or a general area of interest you would like explored, send Stephen an email: [secretary@vwa.org.au](mailto:secretary@vwa.org.au)

## 2011 Calender of Events

| <b>Date</b> | <b>Event</b>                                | <b>Location</b>                |
|-------------|---|--------------------------------|
| 19 April    | VWA Meeting: Adam Stewart's workshop        | Adam's Workshop                |
| 28 June     | Stephen Farquhar – Woodworking/Internet Age | Meat Market<br>Conference Room |
| 23 Aug      | tbc   | tbc                            |
| 21-23 Oct   | Timber and Working with Wood Show           | Flemington<br>Showground       |
| 25 Oct      | Annual General Meeting                      | Meat Market<br>Conference Room |
| Nov/Dec     | The Convent / Stormwood exhibition          | tbc                            |
| 13 Dec      | Christmas Drinks and Student Exhibition     | WDC@ Meat Market               |