



REDWOOD

Newsletter of the Redcliffe and District Woodcraft Society Inc.

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Redcliffe and District Woodcraft Society Inc.

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Welcome to my October report, as this is the first report after our 2025 AGM, I would like to thank the continuing management committee members and welcome our four new members Bill Charlton, Wendy Hillhecker, Ian Hunter and Thad Ikihega. Thanks also to the retiring members Richard Scriven, Andy McIntyre, Kevin Watt and Maureen Kowalski for their help and support during the last year. A special thanks to Richard Scriven our retiring Treasurer for his years of service in this role. Thanks also to our continuing and new subcommittee members and to the many members who have volunteered to fill the many other allocated duties. I look forward to working with all our volunteers in whatever capacity that might be.

Thanks to Ian Hunter who has volunteered to Chair our new subcommittee for the musical instrument makers. This popular section of our club continues to grow thanks to the excellent tutoring by Maurice Coutanceau and a number of other skilful members

Our first Safety and Training video on the Drum Sanders is nearing completion and will be available to all members soon. Thanks to Shona for coordinating the production and to the members who starred and assisted in the video. We plan to make videos on several of our machines which will be very beneficial to members for training and refreshers courses.

Our Christmas lunch will be held on Wednesday 17th December at the Ambassador Hotel Redcliffe, so note it in your diary and plan to be there. We plan to have some raffles and lucky door prizes and maybe some musical entrainment. Members are asked to contribute suitable items for our raffles and bring them to our club by the end of November to allow time to make up the raffle hampers.

Ernie Hobson
President

Training:

Our training program has moved ahead of the times, as we have now ventured into making a video of the correct and expected club use of our drum sanders.

A team of members joined to create a full instructional video on the process required to use effectively, safely and economically our drum sanders.

Let's see if we can get any nominations in the academy awards.

KC



Safer Living for Queensland

We had an excellent turnout on Tuesday 14th October for the Crime Prevention talk. Many thanks to Cindy and Ricky for an excellent presentation we all got something out of it.

Thanks also to The City of Moreton Bay Council who provided the grant to support the event.



Men's Shed 3

Beechworth, Victoria

After we found the place, hiding in back of a hospital we explained ourselves and were welcomed by a lovely group of men. Graham, the current Chairperson, took us on a tour and explained what they do. The previous chairman, Smithy, (pictured) then took over – it was hard to get away.

They have around 40 members but only 20 or so active members. They have an amazing vegetable garden and they sell the produce to the members and in some cases to the vege store down the road. It generates some income for them (pictured)

They also do community projects and charge the community for the jobs, they said it is another good source of income for them (pictured).

They get donations from local business and run silent auctions where the members bid for the goods to raise money for the club. So lots of little bits help.

They are going to visit the Mount Beauty Men's Shed to see how their 7 day access works – they like the idea of it as at the moment they only open 3 days per week. They work with the Prison Farm (out of town) and have an MOU where 'close to release prisoners' come to the workshop two mornings a week to help upgrade the facility, bag kindling for sale to the local punters and do some projects. The members speak highly of this program and the inmates who come to the club. They regularly have BBQs for members and prisoners and their focus is firmly on welfare and socialising. They even have a pool table in their morning tea room.

They received a grant for over a million dollars to build the shed, from the Men's Shed Association. The prisoners have just finished lining the shed and it looks a treat.





Member Profile: *Barry Spillman*

Profession: school teacher (retired). Secondary School Principal for over sixteen years.

Hobbies/Sport (apart from woodwork): gardening, golf (until about four years ago), home handyman. From the 1960's, I have been strongly involved in community organisations.

Community Involvement: My wife, Pat, and I enjoy being part of the community and its organisations, and we have done this for the whole 66 years plus of our married life. We belong to different organisations but always support each other's involvement.

Woodwork:

I have been making things out of wood since childhood such as furniture, a canoe and a couple of boats and home renovations. Formal woodwork teaching began at age nine when I was allowed to take manual arts for one day a week at primary school, a year earlier than most, so I had a total of five years woodworking tuition at primary and secondary schools. Those days the teachers were people who had first practised as tradesmen before becoming teachers and while their teaching styles varied in quality, the skills and knowledge they passed on were those of the practitioners: hand skills that are still relevant today.

After I retired from full time work, I purchased a second hand lathe and started some self taught turning. A short time after that I heard that a woodcraft society had just been formed in Redcliffe. I joined and over my first couple of years as a member, I was lucky enough to receive tuition from Peter Morphett and David May. Those days, I particularly liked '*show and tell*' because it was a source of ideas and set a challenge to make articles as good as the ones shown. I still like '*show and tell*' for the same reasons and as well, I can now appreciate that participating in it gives one the confidence to keep up the challenge of Improving.

I was treasurer of R&DWS for two years during the presidency of Jim Lane. Being a member of RDWS has so many benefits. I greatly enjoy participating in our Activities.

While I have not made a serious evaluation of my woodturning, a couple of traits become clear. I have turned a lot of lidded boxes and small bowls. My pieces tend to be smaller rather than larger. (A definite disadvantage in competitions!). I like embellishing pieces with carving or pyrography. I'm a wood burner. You can see the smoke rising. Oh for the finesse of a Kay Stark!

Watching the likes of Ian Carter and Murray Hammond led me to expand my attempts at woodcarving. My first carvings were patterns and designs on mirror frames and wood turnings, but watching the carvers at work on our premises has definitely resulted in expansion of my woodcarving horizons. I am overjoyed that in my advancing years, I still have the desire to make things, to learn new skills and keep developing the ones I have. I continue to look forward to bringing my "masterpieces" to 'show and tell'. Doing so is a salve to the ego, but hopefully the pieces will be such as to give ideas, inspiration and challenge to other members.

Carving/whittling has become a larger part of my wood activities over recent years. One of the best things at RDWS for me has been running and developing the wood turning courses and workshops. It has been great to pass on knowledge and skills and at the same time keep learning while interacting with members.

Barry Spillman ~ September 2025



Hoop Pine Davenport

A collection of some of Barry's 'masterpieces' *Editor*



What tree is that?

Tulip oak

Argyrodendron peralatum

Tulip Oak is a species of large trees, Queensland, Australia between Tully and Cooktown. The most distinctive feature of the tree is that the trunks form large characteristic buttresses.

I was very fortunate when I lived in Cairns back in the 1980's to secure several large flitches (6m x 250 x 75mm) from a factory that was being renovated, managed to get hold of them before they were sent to landfill. Beautiful heavy timber that worked well and I managed to have them milled to 20mm and 40mm thick planks, making numerous pieces of furniture that is prized and still in use today. Actually, one piece that resides on our back deck is due to be restored. *KC*

Tulip Oaks are a common rainforest tree and are not related to the northern hemisphere oaks. They have a distinctive 'rocket ship' shape to the trunk, with flanged buttress roots and a straight, tall trunk. The roots and trunk have a reddish shade.



There is not a lot of information available on Tulip Oak and it is not readily available in commercial quantities or for that matter in small lots but if you can get hold of any it turns, finishes and glues well and makes great furniture.

The grain is usually straight and open, sometimes interlocked or wavy and irregular producing some beautifully figured wood. Attractive figure on tangential face and large ray fleck on radial face are prominent features.



Bedside Unit in Tulip Oak.



Outside tray mobile currently being restored

The two bedside table and Queen size bed in Tulip Oak has returned to North Queensland ,now residing with our son in Townsville, since August. *Kerry Cameron*

Tips and Tricks



This tip comes from an article in the latest AWR newsletter featuring the making of Vasko Sotirov's sculptural cabinet using many intricate parts and detailing the process.

A technique of using a pencil sharpener and a drill to make small diameter dowels is an interesting concept.

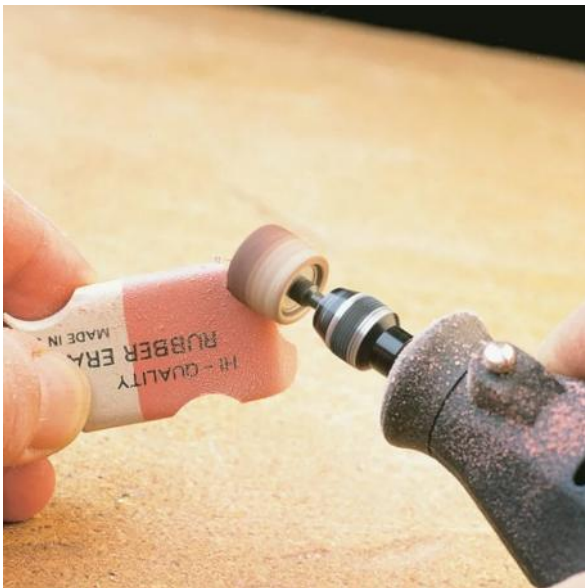
Glue Caddy

Being an impatient sort, waiting for glue to reach the bottle's spout became a pet peeve of mine. To put an end to this, I made a stand with a hole in the top matching the diameter of the bottle's lid. It allows the bottle to stand upside down so the glue is

always ready to use. For stability, I made the base slightly larger than the top. –
Mark Thiel



PHOTOS PROVIDED BY THE AUTHOR UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED



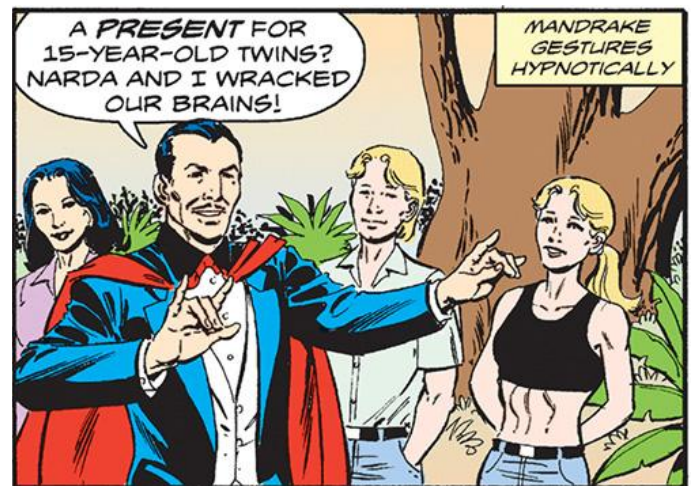
An easy quick way to clean up a rotary tool small drum sander attachment is to turn it at a slow speed against an eraser and rid it of the gunk.

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Darryl McKay is currently making a large box and when asked he said it is for his Phantom Comic collection and a very creative image of the Phantom has been lasered by Ernie Hobson, on the box front. See *Show and Tell*

The comment brought back my childhood memories of my favourite comic strips of the 50's being Dick Tracy and Mandrake the Magician very simple pleasures of the era.



Show and Tell



John Picard creatively carving



Peter Clifton and Rainer Pinno in front of the new dishwasher that they installed.



Ernie Hobson with a beautifully crafted jewellery box that he made on special request.



Tamara Curtis and Marilyn Kunde with a Marilyn restored timber slab in memory of Tamara's father.

More Show and Tell



Warrick King detailed the 'trial and errors' in making a multi segmented three pointed bowl.

Darryl McKay proudly holds the box that he has made, to hold his Phantom Comic collection, with the assistance of Ernie Hobson who also did the laser printing of the Phantom



Frankie McGuigan holds up a pen that he recently made with a Celtic pattern insert.





Ivan Harrison giving a playing rendition on Dan's Violin



Michael Lederman with another of his multi-medium creations



Ken presented more of his inlaid stock ready to cut and inserted in his lidded boxxes/



The musical instrument makers practicing and fine tuning their voices and instruments.



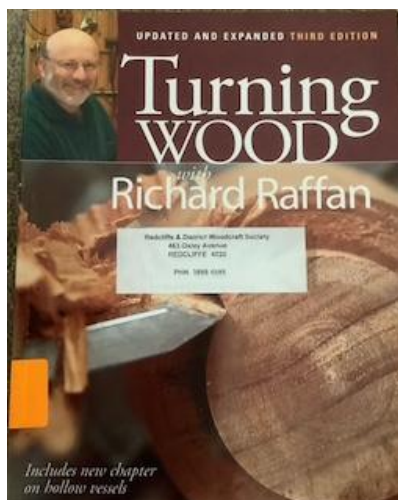
Sean Mo0re and Barry Spillman discussing technique in making a needle box during Barry's workshop.



Dan O'Farrell holding his beautifully crafted violin skilfully made by Dan.

Book Reviews *by Kerry Cameron*

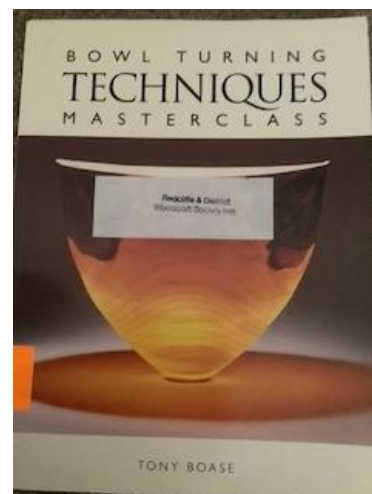
Our Club Library has an excellent range of books covering all woodcraft disciplines. Two books that I came across recently was *Turning Woods* by Richard Raffan and *Bowl Turning Techniques, Masterclass* by Tony Boase, both worth a Redwood review.



Richard Raffan is a renown woodturner, demonstrator and author, he has helped popularise the craft of woodturning since the 1970's. Taunton Press has published seven of his books including this one in 2008, he has also starred in several DVD's. He also has his own YouTube Channel.

I consider Raffan as the 'Godfather' of woodturning, his books are a must for all new woodturners and a good reminder of good technique for the more experienced.

This book covers all the basics from knowing the ins and outs of lathes, spindle and flat turning and anything that a turner needs to know in their ongoing journey of adventure.

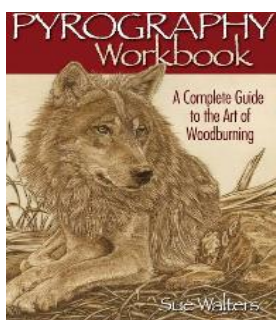


This book is for the more advanced woodturner but is also an inspirational challenge for the less experienced to aim for.

Starting with "A Brief History of Bowl Turning" and then "Wood and Where to Find It" other chapters cover milling as well as design and inspiration and are a good read.

The main thrust of the book is a compilation of turnings by renowned artists, detailing their creative pursuits.

It is well worth borrowing whether you be a beginner or experienced in the woodturning craft.



PYROGRAPHY we have several excellent books on pyrography in our library, all describing in great detail the development and encouraging the art of woodburning.

I am basically shelf taught from one of these books and it gives me enormous satisfaction to practice the skills learnt, from copied art to embellishment on wood turned and boxes.

We now have a dedicated pyrography table and two Razertip burners and a selection of pens.

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The Redcliffe and District Woodcraft Society Inc. - General Information

The aim of our society is to promote, encourage and practice the art of woodcraft and similar arts. Workshops in woodturning, woodcarving, scroll sawing, pyrography, box making, musical instrument making, toy making, general woodworking, and timber preparation are held in the Woodcraft Centre at 463 Oxley Avenue, Redcliffe. The Society is administered by a Management Committee of eleven members who report to the general membership.

Members meet on Tuesdays for general workshop activities and our weekly "show and Tell" at morning tea where members can show and discuss their creations and be inspired by the work of others. Our Club is also open to members on Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday mornings.

The Society has a large range of tools and machinery for members to use and offers regular tuition in different aspects of woodcraft. Our club also conducts a comprehensive system of competency in the operations of its machinery. ALL NEW MEMBERS ARE WELCOME