

# CHIPS

WEST AUSTRALIAN GUILD of WOODCARVERS Inc

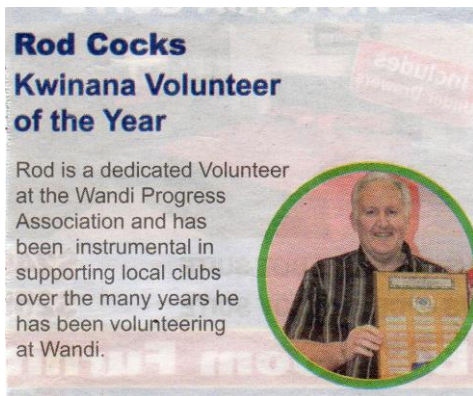
MAY 2015

*Dear Fellow Carvers*

*Thank you to all the members who volunteered their time and talents on Saturday 14 May to make things to be sold at the Wood Show. Speaking of the Show, I hope you are all working on your entries, and exhibition pieces, as we would like at least one for the competition and one for the display from each of you. That would be great, even if you don't think your work is very good. The public are always interested to see a variety of things made of wood, as it then encourages them to have a go. We all have to start somewhere. Looking forward to your entries.*

Best regards *Edith*

## A GOOD CITIZEN



*Rod Cocks is both a long term member of the Guild, and in effect our landlord at Wandu. Those of us who attend Wandu know that Rod spends an enormous amount of time and energy looking after, and promoting the Wandu complex. Sometimes I wonder how people are chosen for this type of award. In Rod's case it is certainly well earned. Congratulations from all us.*

## WOOD SHOW

- *The promoter has invited the club to participate in the Wood Show to be held on 5, 6 and 7 Aug.*
- *Wood Show Committee currently consists of Patrick Pierce (as coordinator), Arthur Godfrey and Wally Kleber. Patrick is looking for a 3 more to set-up the display at Claremont on Thur 4 Aug.*
- *Raffle prizes. Karel Groeneweg and Jim v Brink will make a jewellery box, and Wally Kleber will make a set of salad servers featuring wood spirit heads. We need a volunteer to make another prize.*

- *Entries for the show. Patrick Pierce appealed for members to participate in the competition. Currently members are permitted to enter a maximum of 2 items of each type (miniature, relief or in-the-round). Permission from members may be considered to relax this rule if we are low on entries.*
- *Documents regarding entries and the stand manning roster will be circulated soon*
- *A workshop was held at Wandi on 14 May to make items for sale at the Show, to raise funds for the Guild. We encourage members at other centers to do the same. Everything is welcome.*

## **WORKSHOP WITH HAPE KIDDLE**

*Unfortunately there is hardly anything new to say on this subject. Hape sent some photos of the work he has made for sale in his gallery in NSW. The items were stylized birds and sea-life. Members at Wandi indicated that they were looking for something more realistic. We have emailed Hape to see what he can come up with. Watch this space.*

## **TYPES OF TIMBER**

*I came across this article on the internet-evidently from Canberra. Not being very knowledgeable on this subject I make no comment. It might be of use to particularly newcomers. We are always on the lookout for sources of timber, especially if there are bargains to be had. If you come across such please be generous and share your information.*

### **Woods suitable for carving**

*The list of woods given below is aimed at the inexperienced beginner. Clearly any wood can be carved but there are reasons why you should exercise caution. Some woods, particularly the sawdust from them, are positively dangerous and can give rise to breathing problems and severe reactions. Other woods can have physical properties which make carving a sustained conflict rather than a satisfying hand, eye, brain exercise in coordination. The Guild has members who are aware of the good, the bad and the ugly and they can advise you if you want to use a wood species outside this limited list. The order of the list is not significant.*

**1) Lime, Linden, Basswood** (Genus *Tilia*): *As used by the German masters and by Grinling Gibbons. Bland, some grain, trees can grow large so can sometimes be obtained in large blocks. Expensive to purchase from Europe but *Tilia cordata* (small-leaved European linden) grows to small sizes in Canberra.*

**2) Huon Pine** (*Dacrydium franklinii*, Tasmania): *Because of its slow growth its properties are consistent and it carves well. It may have some colour variation and has a characteristic pleasant odour. Expensive and relatively scarce but available in Tasmania.*

**3) Jelutong** (*Dyera lowii*): *Bland, almost no grain. Used extensively by pattern-makers for precision moulds. It absorbs sweat, etc so handle with cotton gloves. Less useful for the beginner as the lack of grain does not give the experience that you need to acquire. Indonesian source, so is not cheap.*

**4) Boxwood** (*Buxus* sp. Europe & Central America): *A slow-growing hardwood used for rulers, chess pieces and Netsuke. Not available in large sizes. *Buxus sempervirens* (common European box) is planted in Canberra.*

**5) Oak** (*Quercus* sp., mostly northern hemisphere): *Much used by Medieval carvers BUT probably in a green state. Long term stability is good as evidenced by many surviving church carvings. It is a relatively hard timber when dry with large pores and prominent ray figure on the radial face. A number of European and North American oaks are planted*

in Canberra and can grow to large sizes.

**6) London Plane** (*Platanus x acerifolia*): A hybrid of Sycamore (*Platanus occidentalis*) from North America and Oriental plane (*Platanus orientalis*). It is also called Lacewood from its delicate ray figuring. It is grown extensively in Canberra as a street tree.

**7) Walnut** (*Juglans* sp.): The heartwood has beautiful colouring and it finishes well. Grain not a problem and it is used extensively for furniture. *Juglans regia* (English walnut) has been planted quite widely as a nut tree in Australia. However, the timber of *Juglans nigra* (Black walnut from North America) is considered superior. There have been limited plantings in Canberra.

**8) Claret Ash and desert ash** (*Fraxinus oxycarpa*): Desert ash is native to southern Europe and claret ash is horticultural selection of it which originated in South Australia. Timber is pale to cream with clear growth rings and large pores. It cuts cleanly and density helps with cross grain cuts. A number of *Fraxinus* species are planted widely around Canberra so trees are often available in large sizes.

**9) Mahogany** (*Khaya* sp.): There are many trees known as 'mahogany' but the African mahogany (*Khaya ivorensis*) is probably the best know. The timber works well and often has a 'lustrous' finish.

**10) Fruit woods** (Pear, apple, cherry etc): Pear has a close grain and little colour. It carves well and can sometimes be obtained in large sizes. Cherry can have interesting colouring. The sapwood of many of the fruitwoods can split badly on drying so they should be slabbed soon after the trunk is cut.

**11) White Beech** (*Gmelina leichhardtii*): Is a native of coastal NSW and southern Queensland. It has been recommended in Aust. Woodworker as the best Australian carving wood. It is easy to work and is somewhat oily, hence has poor gluing properties.

**12) Kauri pine** (*Agathis* sp.): *Agathis australis* was originally sourced in large quantities and very large sizes from New Zealand. This source has largely been cut out or reserved but some kauri comes from Queensland (*Agathis robusta*) and Pacific islands.

**13) Box Elder** (*Acer negundo* from North America): It is actually a maple, not a box or an elder! It is relatively soft, has a fine grain and carves well. It has been quite widely planted around Canberra and grows well so trees become available from time to time.

#### **Woods to be avoided**

1) **Brush Box** (*Lophostemon confertus*, previously *Tristania conferta*): Native to NSW and Queensland. It has dense, close-grained, often curly and interlocked timber that contains silicon which quickly dulls your tools. This is less of a problem these days with modern high-speed steel tools but would still be a challenge.

2) **Desert Acacias** (*Acacia* sp.): Many dry-country acacias are extremely hard but can have beautiful dark grained heartwood. Some have tendency to break away. It would be best to use files on them.

3) **Many eucalypts** (*Eucalyptus* sp.): Many of the native eucalypts have very dense, hard timber that can also have interlocked grain. These difficult woods are often found in groups including iron barks, boxes and bloodwoods. While with perseverance, they can produce items with interesting colour and grain, they are probably best avoided until some experience has been gained.

#### **A LITTLE BIT OF HUMOUR**

The other evening I was on the internet and my wife asked what I was looking at. I said I was looking for cheap flights. My wife said "Oh darling-that's so nice of you". She was so excited-she took off all her clothes and we had great sex right there on the lounge room floor. I was rather surprised because she had never shown any interest in my darts playing before

What- ever happened to our sexual relations?



I don't know. We didn't even get a card from them last Christmas

### **SUBSCRIPTIONS**

*A friendly reminder if you have not paid your subs yet. Here are the details. Please pay in the next 2 weeks.*

#### **SUBSCRIPTIONS 2016**

*The AGM voted that subscriptions remain as last year viz **\$35***

*You can pay your subs -*

*By cash or cheque in an envelope hand delivered or posted to the Treasurer clearly marked as "subs" and with your name in capitals*

*If by cheque (soon to be discontinued we are told) make sure your name is on the cheque, and clear to read*

*By electronic funds transfer per these instructions from the Treasurer*

*Hi fellow members*

*For those who have online facilities and wish to transfer their Annual Subscriptions Direct, I have included the following.*

*On your Bank's webpage there should be four "Fields" (or Boxes) One each for **BSB** number, one for **Account** number, Account **Name** and one for **Description**. Each bank may vary in layout; however I'm hoping that these four boxes are available. (I know the BSB and Acct. No./name have to be, but some may not have a description box).*

*If you have the boxes I have described then I would ask you to fill in as follows.*

*BSB: 036308*

*Acct No: 102673*

*Acct Name: West Australian Guild of Woodcarvers Inc.*

*Description: Your name here - Fees*

*It's important that you provide **your name** in the Description box and if possible the reason for payment. If there is no room for the later then leave it off. I can work out what it's for by the amount.*

*If your bank webpage does not provide a "Description Field" then you are going to have to email me, (**my email address is in "Chips"**) advising me that you have done a bank transfer and include the date you d*

*A contacts details form is attached. Please return the completed form with your subs so that we can do an update on our members list. If you did not show an email but now have one please let us know so we can communicate with you by that medium, especially the newsletter. Australia Post has "modernized" its service by increasing the cost of the stamp by nearly 50% and increasing delivery times from next day to something like 4 days (unless you pay a hefty premium)*

*If you have paid by electronic funds transfer we request that you also send in your membership form.*

### **HELPING THE BICHE COMMUNITY IN THE SOLOMON ISLANDS.**

*The Guild has made several donations of equipment and money to the Biche community, which has helped them to generate additional funds for things we just take for granted. Mostly the equipment is for use by the men. The community has asked if we can donate embroidery thread and other sewing materials to help the women. So ladies please look in your craft boxes and let us have any material you can spare. Men please ask your wives the same. All in a very good cause. Please send to me Bob Tanner at 66 Bedford Rd Ardross WA 6153, and I will make sure they get to Elizabeth Manning.*

## TREASURER'S REPORT APRIL 2016

### General Comment

Membership payments continue to be received, albeit at a slower rate, (refer below)

### April 2016 - Monthly Balance Sheet

#### Receipts

☑ **11** members renewed their annual subscriptions. **\$385** banked.

☑ A further **\$30** was received from the sale of **2** Solomon Island Carvings donated by Elizabeth Manning. The money raised will in turn be donated back to the Solomon Islanders.

The month's total receipts for April, being; **\$415**

#### Payments

Payments for the month were;

☑ A cheque for **\$2155** was given to Fred Brewer for the purchase of 5 Dust extractor units from Carbatec. Of these, one of the units (a freestanding air clean extractor) was deemed not to be suitable and has been returned to store. A credit of **\$829** has been given, against future purchases. To date Fred has purchased **\$104.24** worth of hoses, connectors and reducers. Currently the Store Credit stands at **\$724.76**. Should it be decided that we do not wish to purchase anything further, Carbatec will raise a refund cheque for the balance of the outstanding credit.

The total debits for April, being; **\$2155**

As of the **30th April 2016** The Guild's Bank Balance is **\$7119.90**

#### Memberships

As mentioned, **11** Subscriptions have been paid during April, bring the total of memberships to **40**. This equates to **77%** of last year's total of **52** paid up members.

Based on last year's List there are; **7** from Wandii, **2** from Applecross and **5** from Warwick yet to pay. Acceptance of Membership Fees will close as of the 31st May 2016

Patrick Pierce

Treasurer

West Australian Guild of Woodcarvers Inc.

## Diary Dates of Guild Events for 2016

General meetings held probably at Wandii. Minutes are distributed at Wandii. If you don't go there and would like a copy, let me (Editor) know and I will send to you.

June 13, July 11, Aug 8, Sept 12, Oct 10, Nov 14

Wood Show 5,6 and 7 Aug Set-up Thurs 4 Aug

Hape Kiddle workshop 24 and 25 Sept tentative-awaiting response from Hape

Sausage sizzle Oct 8 at Bunnings Cockburn

Christmas lunch Dec 11 at The Pavilion Wandii

## OFFICE BEARERS 2016

Edith Peel	President	95274124	23 Calume St	Hillman 6168	
Bob Tanner	Secretary	93641830	66 Bedford Rd	Ardross 6153	barry.tanner76@yahoo.com.au
Patrick Pierce	Treasurer	0430211552	9 Cukela Ct	Atwell 6164	ppierce@iinet.net.au
Bob Tanner	Editor	93641830	66 Bedford Rd	Ardross 6153	barry.tanner76@yahoo.com.au

## **Carving Groups**

### **Applecross Area:**

Meet Tuesday 3:00 – 5:00pm  
Applecross SHS, East Entrance  
37 Ardessie Street, Ardross  
Contact: Ron Green 9330 2623

### **Rockingham Area: (55+ year olds)**

Meet Tuesday 9:00am to Noon  
Rockingham Autumn Centre  
McNicholl Street, Rockingham  
Contact: Karel Groeneweg 95281187

### **Warwick Area:**

Meet Friday 3:00 – 5:00pm  
Warwick Senior High School  
355 Erindale Road (North End)  
Contact: Vicki Nicholson 9309 2652

### **Wandi/Anketell/Canningvale/Kwinana**

Meet Monday 9:00am - Noon  
Wandi clubrooms  
302 De Haer Road Wandí  
Contact Patrick Pierce

