

# NEWSLETTER

## Woodworkers Association of NSW

### September/October 2025 edition

#### From the President - October 2025

At our August members' meeting, the distinguished Professor David Lindenmayer AO was our guest speaker. He gave an excellent presentation about what is happening in our tall forests and the importance of not logging our old growth forests in Australia. The facts that he revealed were astounding and very troubling. The presentation was recorded and will be available on our updated website later in the year for all members to view. The talk was based on his book "The Forest Wars: the ugly truth about what is happening in our tall forests" which is in our library at the Workshop and available for members to borrow.

At our upcoming October meeting, one of our newer members, **Patrick Kennedy**, will be our guest speaker. Patrick has started a not-for-profit organisation called the Australian Carpentry Collective. Its mission is to preserve indigenous woodworking around the world and assist vulnerable communities to give them the modern skills in tradecraft that will help them build their own future. The last newsletter included an article about the work of the Collective and Patrick will provide more details at the meeting on next **Monday, 13 October**. I hope you can join us and have a meal beforehand in the brasserie or the Chinese restaurant upstairs.

Our annual Sharpening Day and barbecue is on **Saturday 8 November** from 10am-2pm at our Workshop. This is an opportunity for members to bring along some tools for tuning and to see different methods of sharpening being employed. This year we will have professional demonstrations of the Tormek water-cooled sharpening system and the use of a variety of

Japanese waterstones, as well as Brian Dawson's simple and effective sandpaper sharpening process. Japanese Tools Australia

will have a range of equipment available for purchase. This is a great chance to learn some new tricks about getting a scary-sharp edge on your tools and keeping them that way. The event is free for all members and their friends.

We are delighted to have our Course Curator, **Phil Nanlohy**, back on deck. November is a busy course month with four courses being run at our Workshop. There are still two places available in Peter Young's wonderful Mortise and Tenon Joinery course starting on 13-14 November. You can register at our website.

Finally, the Committee is interested in exploring opportunities for the Association to apply for funding grants for worthwhile purposes. Is there a member who would be willing to volunteer to assist with applying for and managing grants?

I hope to see you soon.

**Phil Greenwood, President**

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## Woodworkers Association of NSW Inc

ABN 51 544 261 324

### Committee

**Phil Greenwood** – President  
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**Phil Nanlohy** – Vice President & Courses  
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**Geoff McClelland** – Secretary  
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**Alex Worley** – Treasurer  
[treasurer@woodworkersnsw.org.au](mailto:treasurer@woodworkersnsw.org.au)

**Phil Harley** – Workshop Supervisors  
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**Diana Chen** – Website / Social Media  
[social@woodworkersnsw.org.au](mailto:social@woodworkersnsw.org.au)

**Anthony Seiver** – Newsletter Editor  
[newsletter@woodworkersnsw.org.au](mailto:newsletter@woodworkersnsw.org.au)

**Saskia Friedrich**

**Hugh Campbell**

### Other position holders

**Peter Hunt** – Membership Secretary  
[membership@woodworkersnsw.org.au](mailto:membership@woodworkersnsw.org.au)

### Workshop Supervisors

Henry Black | Brian Dawson  
 John Evans | Saskia Friedrich  
 Peter Harris | Geoff McClelland  
 Phil Nanlohy

### Next meeting:

**Monday, 13 October 2025,  
7:30pm**

(Please arrive by 7:00pm for a 7:30pm start)

### Guest speaker:

**Patrick Kennedy**  
 – The Australian Carpentry Collective



### Upcoming meetings:

Monday 1 December 2025

### Venue:

William Room, First floor, Canada Bay Club  
 – 8 William Street, Five Dock

Meals and light snacks are available at the Club in the Brasserie, Canada Bay Phoenix, or the Café. Feel free to enjoy a meal and camaraderie with other members.

Members are welcome to invite family and friends. Members are also encouraged to suggest guest speakers or items of interest to members for future meetings.

### Past Newsletters

The Association website has a PDF archive of Newsletters going back to 2008  
[woodworkersnsw.org.au/newsletter](http://woodworkersnsw.org.au/newsletter)

Recent editions (back to 2022) are also available through the National Library of Australia, Trove repository ([nla.gov.au/nla.obj-3218159820](http://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-3218159820)).

## Life Members

Richard Crosland	Les Miller (dec.)
Geoff Hannah	David Palmer (dec.)
Peter Harris	Leon Sadubin
Philip Lake	Richard Vaughan
Kim Larymore (dec.)	Alan Wale (dec.)

## New Members

A very warm welcome to our new members:

Justin Skowno	Askam Wise
Alexander Courtis	Craig Courtie
Cris Garcia	Neil Shepherd
Robert Smith	Michael Stoddart
Seah Xin Ze	Madi Yazan
Jasmine Lam	Mark Szczerbicki
Matthew Lording	Michael Caloudis
Remy Bordignon	John Black

*All members (new and existing) are encouraged to be involved in the Association's activities including attending our bi-monthly member meetings, undertaking a course, using our Abbotsford workshop, or sharing a story in the Newsletter.*

## Stay connected

Join the [Member-only Facebook group](#) to share ideas and have casual discussions about woodworking.

Use this group to network with other members and get feedback about projects in a safe online environment. Join by scanning the QR code::



## Workshop

Full details about the workshop, including workshop bookings, are available on our website:

[www.woodworkersnsw.org.au/workshop](http://www.woodworkersnsw.org.au/workshop)

## Coming Up

### November

#### Sharpening Day

The annual sharpening day will occur on **8 November** at the Abbotsford Workshop. The day will include demonstrations on hand and machine sharpening by Tomek and Japanese Tools Australia. Brian Dawson will demonstrate sharpening with sandpaper. The Association is also holding a BBQ. Bring your dull edge tools (such as plane irons, chisels, spokeshave irons) for sharpening.

#### Council of Woodworking Clubs

The Association is a member of the Council of Woodworking Clubs. Its website [councilwoodworkclubs.org](http://councilwoodworkclubs.org) has a list of upcoming events and contact details for clubs throughout Australia. The Council also offers member clubs reasonably priced Group Public Liability Insurance.



### Editorial -

The Editor is travelling in November and returns on the day of the December meeting. The November-December Newsletter will be produced in October, so please send your stories in early.

If you have contributions for the newsletter, including articles, advertisements, story ideas, or anything else please email Anthony at [newsletter@woodworkersnsw.org.au](mailto:newsletter@woodworkersnsw.org.au)

# WWA of NSW Principles and Values

Under our Constitution, the purpose of our Association is:

- A. To provide a forum for networking and to encourage camaraderie amongst all those who work in wood.
- B. To promote public awareness and appreciation of fine woodwork.
- C. To encourage creativity, design and development of skills and application by all woodworkers.
- D. To represent professional and amateur woodworkers in New South Wales.
- E. To promote the sustainability of fine woodwork as a career.
- F. To promote awareness of environmental issues including encouraging the judicious use of our precious native timber resources and use of sustainably harvested, recycled and reclaimed timbers.

To achieve those goals, the Association has adopted the following Principles and Values:

Inclusivity and community	Respect and safety	Dedication to craftsmanship	Environmental responsibility and stewardship	Respecting tradition and innovation
We embrace diversity and foster a welcoming community, encouraging participation from individuals of all backgrounds and skill levels to enrich our collective experience.	We prioritise a respectful environment and value each member's contribution to maintaining a secure and supported community. Safety whilst working with wood is a prime concern.	We are committed to continuous improvement and excellence in woodworking, fostering a culture where members actively enhance and share their knowledge and skills.	We are dedicated to sustainable environmental practices, responsibly sourcing materials and educating members on eco-friendly woodworking to minimise our environmental impact.	We honour the rich heritage of woodworking whilst embracing innovative techniques, ensuring the craft's evolution and relevance for future generations.

If you think that a member of the Association has not complied with these *Principles and Values*, please speak with the member concerned. If you are uncomfortable speaking to the member, please inform a member of the Committee. Your concern will be passed on to the full Committee who will determine what action is appropriate. If you wish to remain anonymous, your request will be respected. However, that may limit the action that the Committee can take.

## Woodworkers Association of NSW Committee

The Committee seeks more workshop supervisors. Workshop supervisors give instructions and oversee the safe use of machinery, help members with their projects, prepare the workshop and close it up at the end of the session. Workshop supervisors need to be accredited to use the machinery and to be familiar with workshop, tools and equipment.

The number and availability of workshop supervisors limits the use of the workshop for members on Wednesdays and Sundays. The Committee encourages members with an interest, capabilities and availability to be Supervisors to reach out to Phil Harley at [workshop\\_supervisors@woodworkersnsw.org.au](mailto:workshop_supervisors@woodworkersnsw.org.au).

## Meet a Member: Phil Nanlohy



### What was your background?

I was born in Sydney and until I was four, Mum and I lived with her parents on Cockatoo Island. Cockatoo Island was a British prison then later a ship building site in the middle of Sydney Harbour. Now it is a historic and very atmospheric public space.

I left the Island when my mother remarried and we later moved to Seven Hills. Mum and Dad were artistic but I am not. Our house was a place where family friends came and stayed and shared their arts practice. Both Mum and Dad worked full time. Mum was a graphic artist and my Dad was a musician. He was the guitarist in Johnny O'Keefe's band. Later he became a music teacher and Mum worked as a publication specialist at CSIRO. My primary and secondary education was in Seven Hills. I left home at 18 and moved into the Inner West for work and for study.

### What about school and higher education?

School was not good. I scraped through the HSC and a Teacher's College diploma. However, once I started teaching and saw the purpose of these learnings I went back and completed a lot of short courses and then a BEd and two MEds whilst working full time.

I developed a philosophy of learning that flipped the emphasis of teaching practice. Instead of being based on large scale meta-analyses of quantitative research I referred to my approach as "Practice Based

Learning." Essentially whilst being informed by current research individuals should be constructively critical of their own practice so they can continually improve

### How did your interest in education grow?

I worked for ten years as an infant and primary teacher. This led to five years as an Education Department advisor and then to over 30 years as an education lecturer at Western Sydney University.

As a volunteer, I was part of the team that set up the Reverse Garbage Truck. This not-for-profit cooperative collected useful offcuts from manufacturing firms, stored it all in a large warehouse and then resold these resources to cover the costs. In those days there were very few resources available for hands-on activities in primary schools. One of the aims of Reverse Garbage was to provide resources for schools and community groups. What I was able to get from the cooperative influenced my teaching practice. It allowed me to develop ways of teaching that emphasised the children as makers. The making was always part of their learning process. Reverse Garbage held its 50th birthday celebration recently.

### Journey into woodworking

Strange as it may seem it was retirement planning. I went looking for opportunities to develop hand skills that I could use to maintain a purpose in my retirement. I have been a handy person most of my life. I had been able to do home maintenance tasks. Rough and ready woodwork designed to 'fix' something. That's not what we're talking about now.

I did some weekend courses at Sturt in Mittagong. The time there felt blissful. The simple projects allowed me to be in a flow state where three-dimensional problem-solving led to the creation of a useful or even beautiful artefact. Seeing fine furniture made by some of the best makers was also an impetus. These examples gave me something to aim for and I started doing the three-hours-a-week kind of course. Initially at Splinter with Paul Nicholson



and Stuart Faulkner. We began with the usual set pieces of a bread board, a mallet and a wall cabinet, but then moved on to make our own projects. So, for the last 10 years I have relied upon that expert instruction to lift the quality of what I can do. For many years, I continued working with Stuart and later with John Gallagher. Because of their mentoring I have been able to complete furniture projects of use to my family.

### What type of woodworking are you interested in?

For a long time I just wanted to make bigger pieces of furniture. Tables and cabinets and chests. My most recent project has been a boardroom table for my son. I made it out of American Walnut using the torsion box technique. This technique allows a long table to be strong but still have a thin profile.

Each time I've made a piece of furniture I've tried to design in features that would extend my skills. I made a kitchen unit out of recycled shelves that had over 120 dominoes in it. That's where I learnt how to use the Domino machine.

My small tables tend to have unobtrusive spaces or drawers. For example, a long thin hall table I made for my son has drawers that come out either end. The drawer fronts look just like the rail and so are not obvious. I made a large blanket chest which has a plinth that allows it to be rolled around. Between the plinth and the Camphorwood slats that are the floor of the chest there is additional space for extra storage.



### Do you have a workshop at home?

Yes, I have a workshop. It is a 2 x 4 metre wooden shed. It has barn doors on one end and windows all down one side. The back and the other side are blank walls.

I'm lucky enough to have a good bench made on one of Stuart Faulkner's weekend 'My Bench' workshops. It changed the space. The bench is under one end of the window wall and beyond that I have storage cabinets and shelving. The back of the shed has shelving and the other long wall has a wood rack. Underneath the wood rack there are 4 small-scale machines. They can't be used inside the shed. I need to set them up outside on a trestle. The best upgrade possible would be to empty the shed, cull ruthlessly and set it up anew.



### What other activities are you interested in?

These days I'm fully retired from any part-time paid work. Family is now more and more my focus. I have two grandchildren under five and we look after them every week. We're lucky to have one son whose family lives locally and another son who visits frequently. It's a wonderfully busy retirement.

### What was your entry into the Association and how did you become actively involved?

I came along to a meeting in 2014 and found that I felt welcomed and that membership had many benefits.

All through my adult life, I have been a volunteer. The benefits of volunteering far exceed the effort. Volunteering provides the volunteer with agency. It develops skills. Skills

that are transferrable. It involves you in a community of like-minded people and gives you a personal purpose. I was invited onto the committee and once I retired was delighted to join. The role of course coordinator was a natural one for me given my education background.



### How do you see the courses program contributing to the Association meeting its purposes?

The courses have been running for many, many years. They were largely led by volunteers and this was how it continued when I first took on their organisation. One of the things that surprised me when I started was the number of people who wanted to have introductory courses. I incorrectly thought that if someone was joining the Woodworkers Association they would've had some previous experience. This was not so.

The courses provide community building. They allow members to meet and work with highly skilled leaders. They get to share an experience with six or more other people who are interested in what they are interested in. They get to talk to other people about an area of woodworking that they may not have the opportunity to do away from Association's events.

The courses provide skill development. They open new areas of expertise for the woodworkers. Our courses are all short term which means that skill development will need to continue beyond the one, two or four days timetabled. But what the courses do is provide a roadmap for the participants that shows them what they need to do next if they are to develop a new area of woodworking in which they are interested.

The courses also provide a better utilisation of the workshop resources. They lead to familiarity with the workshop machines and hand tools, to more autonomy and to projects where access to the workshop can help members finish what they have set out to do. The main value of the workshop is to facilitate the completion of the early parts of a project that then be assembled and finished at home.

### How has the course program grown and evolved over the past few years?

After the disruption caused by COVID in 2021 the courses program went through a period when many courses simply did not run. After the lockdown lifted, we advertised a new program but it took a while before the courses to start to fill again. In the subsequent years demand has fluctuated. 2024 was frenetic but 2025 has been calmer. We have been actively working on course design. Last year the committee surveyed the membership and part of the opinions gathered were concerned with the courses. Our findings were presented to the members.

Based on that information and other suggestions we have attempted to broaden the content that we offer. Nine of the courses this year ran for the first time. Four courses ran for the first time last year and were repeated. Five courses have been run many times before but remain favourites with the members. Where a course has high demand we try to run a repeat.

### The workshop is the critical hub for course delivery. Some of the courses now offered mean other venues may be more suitable. What do you see as the compromise between the diversity of course offerings and possible adaptations to the workshop?

The impediment to using venues other than the workshop is cost. This year the two design courses and the leatherwork course could have been run outside the Spring Street venue. I sought quotes from the club where we hold our meetings but their fees would have significantly increased the cost of the course. We made do with the workshop by moving the benches and using tables. We are open to more cost-effective offers. It would be also good if we could get some projection equipment and a whiteboard for the workshop.

### What are the challenges to growing or maintaining the courses program and what are possible solutions?

The main challenge is to break even financially. We cost our courses as low as possible while avoiding competing with local commercial providers. We are not trying to duplicate the programs of other providers. We are seeking to provide high quality experiences led by the best course leaders.

The unseen challenges are preparation time and costs. Often a huge volunteer effort is put in by many, many people to get a course up and running. For example, the recent Baby Bench course needed more than a full day's work by Peter Darby and Gordon Joseph just to machine up the 18 ml ply needed for the course kit. In addition, a prototype was made, multiple drawings were created, the bench hardware had to be sourced, the course notes and technical drawings were created and refined, the usual back-office tasks were completed by the Treasurer and the website editor. Finally, the course offsidiers stepped up on the four days the two courses ran. Some courses are easier than that to mount but all need logistic and other support.

A growing challenge has been to manage the last-minute withdrawals. We tried to release the courses in two separate semesters this year to reduce the rate of withdrawals. This strategy did not work. Late withdrawals also have financial implications.

The limitations of the workshop can be a challenge too. A lot of effort is being put into maintaining and improving the workshop whilst considering its multiple roles. It is a workspace for individual members on Wednesdays and Sundays as much as it is a venue for courses. Courses require more tools to be available because usually 6 members are completing the same task at the same time.

### What do you see as the future direction for the courses program?

The course program needs to be driven by member demand. We survey the membership formally and informally. The results are communicated back in meetings and in the newsletter. We are aware that the courses program is available to a limited number. For practical purposes the limit of the workshop

venue is six and this is why we will repeat popular courses. This year 128 places were available over 21 course events. Visits to other venues or providers could be expanded. Those providers have their own enrolment methods and so would remain separate from our program. We could advertise their courses if they covered areas that we could not do.

There are a number of balances that we seek to strike when designing the program. These are; machine and/or hand tools, novice content or expert content, weekday or weekend timing, and the number of volunteer or professional presenters. We need more volunteer presenters. We support our course leaders with course design, preparation and resourcing and with an offsider on the day. Please get in touch with me if you think you might like to give leading a course a go.



## Courses Report

This past month the Baby Bench course ran twice and the Joinery by Hand weeklong course was completed. The Baby Bench course was run for the first time by a first-time course leader. The Joinery by Hand course was run for the second time by an experienced leader. My thanks to all those who stepped in to facilitate these and other courses in my recent absence. Of the remaining four November courses there is only one, Mortise and Tenon Joinery, that has a single remaining vacancy.

On the assumption that the last 4 courses run as currently booked we can share some summary stats for the 2025 Courses program. Across the 21 courses we offered this year a total of 126 places were filled. This represents 94% of the 134 available spots. By the end of the year the program will have delivered 38 full days of instruction or a total of 225 participants/days. Those 126 places were shared by 72 different members. Most of these members attended just one course (44 or 61%) though two signed up for 7 courses each. Overall, 14 of our courses totalling 27 days have been delivered by woodworking professionals and 7 courses over 11 days have been led by knowledgeable volunteers. These statistics give an idea of the scale of our undertaking. However, they summarise only the actual presentation of courses. They do not describe all the work done by volunteers and professionals to prepare these events and to keep their quality as high as it has been. Many, many people give their time and expertise to make this all happen. It feels great to be part of this team.

### WWA NSW Courses 2025

Course	Leader(s)	Course	Leader(s)
Picture Frame	Lou Harriss	Hand Made Tray	Paul Nicholson
Intro to Design	Peter Young	Planning Your Ideas	Sara Buchner
Plane Restoration	Kevin Wallace	Meet the Machines	Henry Black Peter Harris
New Members Course	Phil Nanlohy	Joinery by Hand	Paul Nicholson
Basics of Finishing	Nik Teply	Baby Bench	Peter Darby
Planes, Spokeshaves & Rasps	Paul Nicholson	Baby Bench	Peter Darby
Introduction to Box Making	Peter Harris	Mortise and Tenon Joinery	Peter Young
Leatherwork for Woodworkers	Phil Nanlohy	Hand Held Routing	Lou Harriss
Introduction to Veneering	Peter Young	Hand Held Routing (Repeat)	Lou Harriss
Spiral Handle Spoon carving	Carol Russell	Domino Basics	Lou Harriss
Bowl or Cup Carving	Carol Russell		

## Preparing for 2026

Now is the time of year when we should start planning the Courses program for 2026. This year 11 of our courses were run for the first time and 5 were first run last year. There were another 5 courses that have run for many years and remain popular. The guiding principles that we advertised to the membership will again be considered. We will draw on the recent survey of members and will canvass the broader membership to gain insights into their learning needs. We will seek the opinions of previous course participants, of workshop supervisors and users and of members of our acquaintance. We will be looking to see if there is demand for existing courses and for new courses suggestions. If you have any suggestions please contact us via the website [here](#).

## Final courses for 2025

Course	Leader	Dates	Skill Focus	Spaces
Hand Held Router	Lou Harriss	15 Nov	Machine use	Full
Hand Held Router (Repeat)	Lou Harriss	22 Nov	Machine use	Full
Using the Domino	Lou Harriss	29 Nov	Machine use	Full
Mortise and Tenon Joinery	Peter Young	13 & 14 Nov	Joinery	2

Please visit the [Courses section of the website](#) for more information.

Cheers,

**Phil Nanlohy**

Courses Coordinator

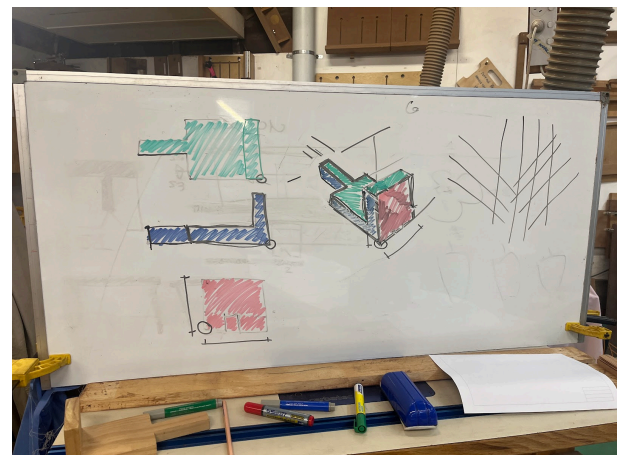
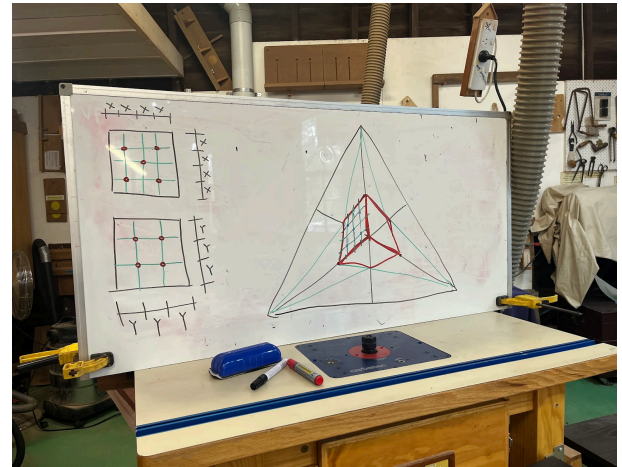
# *Planning Your Ideas* with Sara Buchner

Katerina Lonergan (photos Sara Buchner)

I recently attended the Planning Your Ideas course led by Sara Buchner. The three-day course focused on design principles, isometric and perspective drawing, and how to clearly express ideas on paper.

All of our drawings were completed by hand, which was both challenging and rewarding. While many CAD programs can easily produce the drawings required for a project, learning to draw by hand gave me a deeper understanding of the principles of proportion, perspective, and spatial relationships which underpin those programs. It also encouraged me to slow down and think more carefully about which aspects of a project are critical to how it is going to be built and how best to communicate those aspects.

On the final day, we brought together all of the drawing skills we had developed to sketch our own 'box-based' project, creating a set of drawings and an accompanying cutting list. While I haven't yet built my design, I came away from the course with an appreciation that good woodworking begins with an idea and the means to communicate that idea.





## *Joinery by Hand* with Paul Nicholson

### Alex Worley

The Hand Made Joinery course run by Paul Nicholson is a great course for beginners and intermediate members. The course ran for 4 days and it was designed to teach the basic to intermediate joinery of 'classic'/basic joints. As a woodworker for only 18 months, I wanted to gain experience in hand woodworking and this course delivered!

Paul's teaching style is very patient and very deliberate. He has many years of experience in hand joinery and teaching classes professionally.

The course was a mixture of lecture style with a whiteboard and of course, lots of hand joinery practice. The lecture set the scene for the joint we were about to learn and then we went about learning how to make the joint and apply the theory. Paul had set joints for us to make and set layouts to follow.

The course taught me how to hand-saw properly (straight!), how to use a chisel properly, how to cut out a mortice, how to create straight and level shoulders. We created single and double dovetails and Paul explained where these may be useful. The same for mortice and tenons. Paul explained when a single and double mortice might be used and the principles of how big a mortice and tenon joint should be.

There were six students and Paul patiently attended to our various skill levels and made sure that when we were attempting to cut out the joinery he explained how to gain the best value from our 'learning experiences'. We didn't call them mistakes – they were learning experiences.

We gained experience in different hand saws, chisels, marking out, how to hold a tri-square properly and how to cut a mortice and tenon.

The course was designed to progress through the different joinery and each joint built on previous 'learning experiences'. We started out with a rebate, then a dado joint, then a single dovetail, then a double dovetail, and lastly a mortice and tenon joint.

Whilst we didn't build anything, we learned a lot about the joints, attempted those joints and were guided by Paul on the techniques we were using. His personalised guidance improved our techniques as we were working on the various joints.

Not only did we learn new skills. In addition, we met other members of the Association and learned from them about their woodworking journey and experiences. The 4 day course made this part of the course particularly enjoyable and even more pleasing.

All up, a great course where the emphasis was on learning how to cut the different joints and where to use them. Now, just practice is needed!





## ***Baby Bench with Peter Darby***

[**Editor** – I asked the Courses Coordinator Phil Nanlohy about the inception and planning for the course.]

*How did the course originate?*

Peter brought a baby bench that he had designed and made to a Wednesday open workshop. As soon as I saw it, I asked Peter if he would be up to running a course based on its construction. I felt that it was a perfect artefact around which to craft a course. It would be of use to a wide range of members. Both those without a separate workshop space and those who did. It could also be a base for a range of commonly used jigs. Even though he had not run a course for the Association before Peter accepted the suggestion and we began work on developing the details of what would be offered.

*How did you and Peter plan the new course?*

Peter sent me the detailed plan of the bench that he had made. I bought two sets of vice hardware and made two different sample benches. I also bought several specialised drill bits for the dog holes and for the placing of the vice hardware. We met and discussed the final design and started the preparations.

We used 18 mm birch plywood that had been sourced from Reverse Garbage and another source that Peter found. As part of the development process Peter produced 10 detailed drawings of the final design and a set of workflow notes. He also created three copies of a detailed jig that could be used by course participants as they constructed their own baby bench.



*Material preparation for Baby Bench course.*

The course ran twice with assistance from a number of members preparing materials and helping to deliver the courses. Participants found the course useful and baby benches now have pride of place in the workshop or home.

## **Reminder: 2025 Member Challenge**

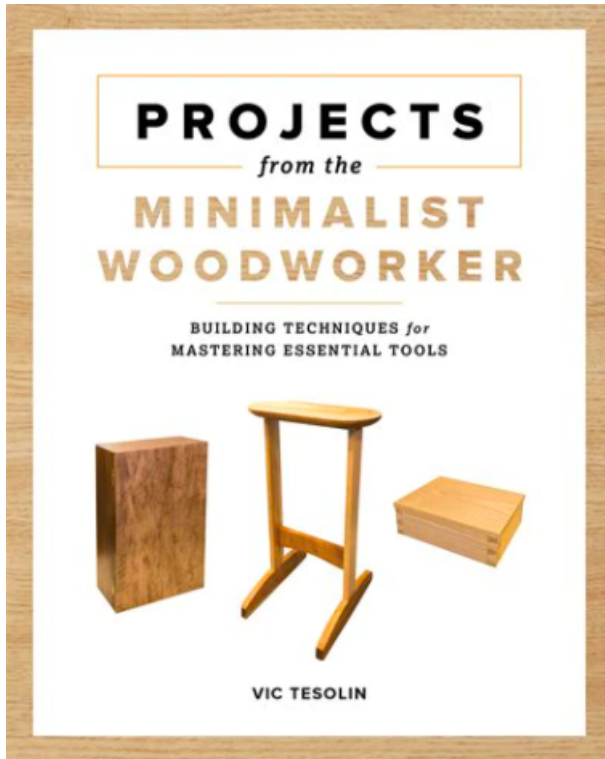
Members undertaking the 2025 Member Challenge should be underway on their Teak projects. Be they: boxes, carvings, turned bowls or something as ambitious as a small stool.

The deadline for the Challenge is the December member's meeting (1 December), where completed projects will be exhibited. Members may also be asked to share their experience with the challenge. This will be an opportunity for members to share techniques, gain inspiration, and appreciate the range of interpretations drawn from the same material.

## Book Review:

### *Projects from the Minimalist Woodworker* by Vic Tesolin

Anthony Seiver



#### How did this book enter my life ?

Vic Tesolin is a Canadian woodworker, woodworking teacher, author and now contributor to *Fine Woodworking* [here](#). I came across Vic through watching YouTube videos from his time at Veritas/Lee Valley (and still regularly posts excellent content on his channel – and is a regular on the Fine Woodworking podcast). I really liked his straightforward no-nonsense approach to teaching woodworking, probably attributable to his Canadian nature and time in the Army.

This particular book, published in 2021, came from Kinokuniya book store and was an impulse purchase (and all other woodworking books were too expensive).

#### What's between the covers?

The book uses seven distinct projects to teach the basics of woodworking using Vic's Minimalist approach.

Vic's first book, *The Minimalist Woodworker*, outlined his approach to making woodworking simple, incorporating: the tools, almost entirely

hand tools; the small but productive work space; and the stress-free easy-to-follow teaching format (step-by-step instructions with ample photographs).

The seven projects in this book are the violin knife, wooden plane, dovetailed box, perch stool, album crate, 6-board chest and hanging wall cabinet. They teach lay-out, joinery (dovetails, mortise and tenon, and housing joints), veneering, shaping with hand tools and finishing.

#### Who would enjoy this book?

The target audience is people getting into woodworking, those who are building up the tools, setting up their workshops and want to learn and hone their hand tool skills. However, this undersells its potential broader appeal, such as intermediate woodworkers looking for ideas and those wanting to use more hand tools in their projects.

#### Did I enjoy this book?

While I have not made any project in the book as they appear in the book, I have repeatedly found instructions and tips for many projects. I used the violin knife instructions to make my own marking knives. Despite using instructions from another author to make my Krenov plane, the plane making instructions in this book were invaluable to visualising critical steps and solving problems. Vic's cabinet making instructions like using dowels and fitting hinges are often re-read ahead to avoid the usual FOMU - Fear of Messing Up.

The chunky pine sides of the dovetailed box and album crate were not my cup of tea, but these are obviously accessible teaching projects rather than appealing to the aesthetic tastes of snobs like me.

Both books are excellent entry points for someone getting into woodworking, but also a handy reference when pondering, "...I wonder how Vic would do that...".

Details on Vic's books are on his website [here](#).

*Projects from the Minimalist Woodworker* is also available at [Dymocks](#) and other booksellers.

# My favourite tool

John Austin



After careful consideration, it is Chisels.

Being involved in furniture making, antique restoration and woodcarving, I found having decent quality chisels is vital to producing a good final product. The quality of steel is extremely important as that factor dictates if the chisels stay sharp and hold their edge. Sharpening can be a chore, but when you get a good result, it is worth the effort.

Chisels are readily available in a variety of styles, quality and price and the choice can be very personal. I suggest investing in a few good quality chisels for fine, detailed work, but it's always handy to have a few chisels for rougher use, like scraping glue and suddenly finding a hidden screw or nail – I also find it easier to use a chisel for clean-up prior to gluing even though I have a scraper.

The ones I use most often are  $\frac{3}{4}$ " (19.16mm) and  $\frac{1}{2}$ " (12.7mm) chisel and a  $1\frac{1}{2}$ " (38.1mm) bevelled edge chisel.

[**Editor** – John has shared some fascinating previous work in recent editions of the Newsletter. I asked what was his favourite tool, preferably a hand tool. If Members have a favourite tool, preferably a hand tool that they wish to share, please **email**.]

## Our Professional Members

Advertising in the newsletter is available to all members at no cost. [Email the editor here](#) with an image and a short description of the services on offer.

Members are also encouraged to send through advertisements for woodworking related items for sale (such as tools, timber, or tall tales).



### Paul Nicholson Woodwork

Classes in traditional woodwork using hand tools.

[Visit website](#)



### Richard Crosland School of Fine Woodwork

All tools are provided and work in progress can be stored at the Alexandria workshop.

[Visit website](#)



### Nikolaus Teply Restorations

Take the mystery out of finishing furniture. Learn how to prepare and finish a wooden surface. Increase your knowledge of different materials and tools used.

[Visit website](#)

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## Canada Bay Club

[Canada Bay Club membership is just \\$3.30 for one year or \\$11 for five years.](#)

Benefits of membership include: reward points when you purchase food, drinks and other services, discounts on food and drink, free parking, birthday rewards, health and fitness classes, and discounted holiday accommodation. Join at reception next time you visit the Club.

More details at: [canadabayclub.com.au/membership](http://canadabayclub.com.au/membership)



## Member classifieds

### COMBINATION MACHINE—PRICE DROP DUE TO URGENT MOVE—\$900 o.n.o.

Saw, Thicknesser, Planer, Mortiser, Spindle.

SAMCO. Made in Italy. (3 phase. Can be converted)

Includes cutters, bits, guides, jigs, blades and misc.

Used minimally by my father, a cabinet maker & French polisher. Recently tested and it runs beautifully.

\$900 o.n.o. for members. Similar machines are selling for over \$2,000 but I have to shift this ASAP hence the price.

Call Michael for more photos/details 0417 226 656



## Jointer and Dust Collector - Ian Stewart

### Item 1: A Carbatec 200 mm Long-bed Jointer, Model CTJ-350.

It has only been used at home, although I did a bit of commercial jobs after retiring. I'm seeking \$1100 on E-bay, but happy to consider offers. It is not a spiral head cutter model; it has 3 knives. The current price is \$2119, although it now has a different model #, it's JN-200C . Workshop manual included.



### Item 2: A Hare & Forbes Dust Collector, Model DC-6

Collected dust from my jointer and another machine. It has two inlets and manual is included. I am seeking \$150 for it on E-bay. A spare cloth filter is included. It was from a school workshop that upgraded to a ducted system. This model is no longer available and the current replacement for it is \$439, model DC-3. They have the same specs re air flow and motor power. Again, pics and info attached, and offers considered. My unit has a floor vacuum capability, not sure about the current model.

Please contact Ian Stewart by phone (0407 016 460), [email](#) or speak to him at the next Members Meeting (13 October).

