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February 2015

For the calendar

March 7th, 8th & 9th: **The Shepparton Wood Show**

also on the same weekend

March, 7th & 8th: **Kyneton Lost Trades Fair**, with 35 Demonstrators
Click the link for more info & to pre purchase tickets.

<http://www.rundellandrundell.com.au/#!/lost-trades-australia/c1p7p>

March 21st & 22nd: **The Blacksmith Festival**, Waterside Studio.
Maribyrnong St, Footscray (*below the Footscray Community Arts Centre*)

Monthly Projects 2015

All items entered in the Barwon Valley Woodwrights 2015 monthly project must have been made within the last 12 months. If you have a project item made prior to that date please bring it along for show and tell on the night concerned.

March project	A lidded biscuit container
April project	A pen
May project	Platter
June project	Walking stick
July project	Chopping board
August project	Mallet
September project	Bowl
October project	Toy to donate to a child for Christmas
November Project	Spoon or ladle

Joke of the Month

If anyone has any jokes you want to share, send them to the editor

The Italian Funeral

A Jewish man was leaving a convenience store with his espresso when he noticed a most unusual Italian funeral procession approaching the nearby cemetery.

A black hearse was followed by a second black hearse about 50 feet behind the first one. Behind the second hearse was a solitary Italian man walking a dog on a leash.

Behind him, a short distance back, were about 200 men walking in single file.

The Jewish man couldn't stand the curiosity.

He respectfully approached the Italian man walking the dog and said: "I am so sorry for your loss, and this may be a bad time to disturb you, but I've never seen an Italian funeral like this. Whose funeral is it?"

"My wife's."

"What happened to her?"

"She yelled at me and my dog attacked and killed her."
He inquired further, "But who is in the second hearse?"

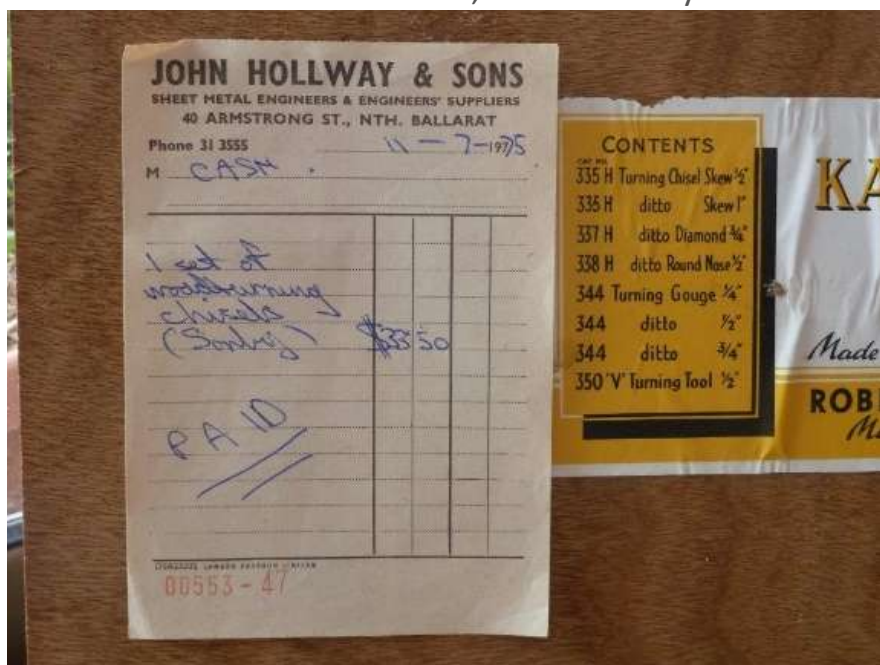
My mother-in-law. She came to help my wife and the dog turned on her and killed her also.

A very poignant and touching moment of Jewish and Italian brotherhood and silence passed between the two men..

The Jewish man then asked "Can I borrow the dog?"
The Italian man replied, "Get in the line."

Out of the past

Once upon a time, long long ago I bought a boxed set of Sorby turning tools. The cost of the seven tools was so reasonable, and it was my daughter's birthday after all. She did well on the day too I hope, but I have no receipt for that. I have used these tools for years, the 1/2" gouge was given away long ago. What a comparison with the HSS tools of today.



Gregor Wallace



Barwon Valley Woodwrights at the Geelong Vintage Machinery Show

Four of our wood turners volunteered to fly the flag and present at the Geelong Classic Truck and Vintage Machinery Show on 10th and 11th of January at the Showgrounds. Lewis Harper, Lindsay Mason, Rob Hutchinson and Laury Vella all demonstrated their woodturning skills over the two days of the show. People queued up to watch and listen as the members explained their work.

Much to the delight of several children, our members specialised in manufacturing crafted tops to give away.

Pictured below are a couple of our blokes demonstrating for the public.

Thanks boys. A great job.

Lindsay, making a top for a young boy, who was over the moon with his gift



Do you recognize this bloke?

“Laury smooth talking a customer into buying a bowl.”



Mercedes Gullwing

This car is a 1954 Mercedes 3000SL. It is made to 1 to 10 scale and the timbers used are Jelutong and Red Cedar.

Another fine model by John Wickham



Pop's Shed

During our break from Woodies I had the pleasure of visiting a woodturning and craft supply business in Chirnside Park, Melbourne. The shop is called Pop's Shed and I had only heard good reports about them. They did not let me down when I got there. As soon as I entered the door I was welcomed by James. After a quick introduction, I was offered a coffee and shown around parts of the shop with some explanations about their wares.

The place was very well stocked with all sorts of turning supplies and turning tools. There was the usual array of pen blanks, turning blanks, and a large selection of burls to choose from. Below is a very small selection of what is available - there were crates of them.



They are the sole Australian distributor of Easy Wood Tools. These are turning tools which use replaceable carbide tips. They are ideal for tough or dirty timbers, as the tips are very hard and hold their edge much better than HSS under these conditions. They are not cheap, but if you do a lot of this type of turning it could be well worth the outlay.



Another innovative item was their Easy Chuck. Instead of using screws to hold the jaws on they use a spring loaded ball to lock them on to the slide. Removal is just a matter of pushing a special tool into the hole on the edge of the jaw and releasing the ball. If you change jaws regularly, this could be the chuck for you.

They also run turning classes at very reasonable rates, where a beginner can learn the basics of spindle turning and then progress to turning a bowl.

They offer club discount to any member of a woodwork club. Whether you purchase online or in store, you can get the discount by quoting the code we have been given and mention our club name.

Check them out here: www.popshed.com.au

And yes, they did get a reasonable sum of my money, but how could I resist their many temptations and great customer service.

Cutting thin strips on a Tablesaw.

Sometimes you need to cut a number of thin strips for a project. You can simply cut a strip in the normal way so that the piece is outside the saw blade. Move the fence the appropriate amount and cut the next one. This can be time consuming and difficult to get all the strips the exact same thickness. A quicker and safe way of doing this is detailed below. Firstly, find a sacrificial piece of ply or MDF that will span the width of your table. Adjust your fence so that the gap between the fence and blade is the same as the thickness required for your strips. Start the saw and pass the sheet through the blade until it reaches the other side. Hold it in position and turn off the saw. Without moving it, clamp the sheet to the table at both ends as shown below. This becomes a zero clearance insert so that there is no chance of your strips jamming in the blade.



Now adjust the height of the blade so that it is only a few millimetres higher than the material you intend to cut.



To push the timber through the cut you will need a push block with a heel.



This will be used to push both the main block and your strip through the cut and keep your hands clear of the blade. The blade will cut a groove through the heel of the pusher on the first cut.



You can view a full video of this operation at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uXQncneobel>