



IWCS news down-under

the newsletter for
International Wood Collectors Society
Australasian Region



A message from our Australasian Trustee

Welcome to the April Downunder. As world events twist and turn, I reflect on the truism, “the only constant in life is change”. After a modest response to our plan for the annual conference in Darwin we have decided to cancel that meeting and instead relocate it to the regional NSW town of Mathoura on the Murray River. It is also scheduled a little later, starting on Sunday September 6. There are several notes later in this edition dealing with plans for the meeting and the auction so I would encourage all members to look at those notes. If you are interested in attending please let me know and I will send you the registration form which we are near finalising.

Our organising committee of Harry & Esther Dennis, Ian Heffernan, Peter Stone, Peter Ball, David Munzberg, John Tillack and myself, have been busy visiting the town and touring the region to come up with interesting things to see and do. With looming fuel shortages and inflated prices this is no mean feat. However, what has shown is the foresight of both Peter Stone and Ian Heffernan in converting to all-electric vehicles **before** the crisis. There is no stopping them now!

The theme of the conference is “Celebrating the mighty River Red Gum, *Eucalyptus camaldulensis* subsp. *camaldulensis*”. Mathoura is on the edge of the Cadell

Tilt, the 100km earthquake lift that changed the course of the Murray and created the enormous River Red Gum forests and the Barmah Choke. For over a century Mathoura thrived on various forestry industries such as providing sleepers for the railways and charcoal for combustion engines in second world war vehicles. With the locking up of forests as a National Park in NSW, timber cutting has ground to a halt and changed the outlook of the town.

Our introduction to the town came via one of Harry’s mates at the Albury Wodonga Woodcrafters, Peter Hurcum, headmaster of the Mathoura primary school (a few decades ago!). Peter has made important local connections for us and will bring the history of the town to life during the presentations on the first day of the conference. We have space for other presentations so if you are willing to have a go on any wood related topic please give me or any of the organisers a call and we will fit you in. As an added encouragement, if there are insufficient volunteers, I might have to dust off my notes and give another installment of interesting pine stories. Be warned!

Hoping to see you there, if not before!



John Lyons

Australasian Region Trustee
IWCS Member # 9737

Members of the International Wood Collectors Society are devoted to advancing information on wood, distributing information on collecting wood, correctly identifying and naming wood specimens, and using wood in a creative and sustainable way.

AustralAsian Region Trustee

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Q: WHERE IS MATHOURA ??



A: About 820 km
from Sydney
and
266 km
from Melbourne
(by car)

Change of Plans for 2026 Annual Conference and AGM

Due to the shortage of participants, the meeting announced in the February Downunder for Darwin has been cancelled. My apologies again to those who were keen to go. Instead, the organising committee have made arrangements for an alternative conference at Mathoura, NSW about a month later than the advertised Darwin trip. An outline of the Mathoura meeting is given in the conference summary later in this edition of Downunder. You should also find a message from Peter Ball with arrangements for the conference auction.

Once again as time is short, just five months away, we appeal for likely participants to contact me by email at jsaej@ozemail.com.au or by phone or text message on 0425 871 565. We have almost completed planning and finalising the cost of conference registration. After hearing from you I will reply with the Conference Registration Form which will give instructions for submitting the form, paying the registration and booking accommodation.

We would also encourage you to consider making a presentation during the opening day of the conference on any wood or society related topic. Please stick your hand up if you are willing to contribute.

Looking forward to hearing from you. Especially for our Queensland and NSW members if you haven't been to one of our conferences before, this is the time to get active and make full use of your membership. The camaraderie gained and potentially lifelong friendships formed from joint experiences make them so worthwhile; not forgetting the acquired knowledge and understanding of wood, trees and our environment, as well as the potential to pick up a few new samples and to expand your wood pile.

- John Lyons IWCS #9737

Don't forget ...

to Follow us on **Facebook** with the link below.
Request membership to the group to enable posting with photos and stories.

[Wood Collectors of Australasia | Facebook](#)

You can also follow us on **Instagram** with the link below.
<https://www.instagram.com/woodcollectorsof/>

- Geoff Holloway IWCS # 9971

Life's a beech

- Peter Goddard IWCS # 10457

What links a seaside holiday and Parisian café culture? Clamp yourself in for the ride and let's chisel out this conundrum.

It all starts with the **European beech** (*Fagus sylvatica*) - it is one of 14 species in the **Fagus** genus and all are deciduous plants growing naturally in Europe, Asia and North America. The European beech is a large tree, typically 25-35m tall and up to 1.5m trunk diameter. It has a lifespan of 300 years if undisturbed but is normally harvested at 80-120 years of age.

The European beech has a dense canopy of horizontally aligned branches with successive layers of overlapping leaves. The tree is shallow rooted with fine roots filling the surface of the soil. These two characteristics result in a darkly beautiful and open forest where only a few other shade-tolerant species can grow. In spring bluebells often carpet the floor of such forests. In south east England there are ancient beech forests with familiar names such as Epping Forest, New Forest and Burnham Beeches. The Chiltern Hills that run through the counties of Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire are renowned for extensive beech woods on chalky slopes.

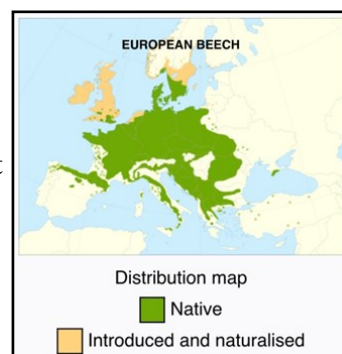
Burnham Beeches is located 50 km west of London and this proximity to the film studios there, combined with its outstanding natural beauty, has made it a location for movies such as *The Crying Game*, *First Knight*, *Goldfinger*, *The Princess Bride* and two of the *Harry Potter* tales. Many Robin Hood movies were filmed there as well, Robin Hood Prince of Thieves being the most recent. But Robin never merrily redistributed wealth under a canopy of beech trees. The real Sherwood Forest is located much further north, where beech trees don't naturally grow, and is mostly composed of English oak (*Quercus robur*) and silver birch (*Betula pendula*).

In Melbourne we have our own Burnham Beeches, located in the Dandenong Ranges. It is an historic Art Deco mansion built by Aspro founder Alfred Nicholas in the 1930s and is surrounded by stunning gardens, including 35 mature copper beech trees (a cultivar of the European beech) that are a landmark along Sherbrooke Road. The building has fallen into disrepair but there are plans to convert it into a "luxury wellness resort and spa", of which you can never have too many.

Many of the ancient beech forests were **pollarded** for much of their lives. Pollarding is the practice of cutting the tree back to the **bolting** (a thick gnarly head) every 15 years or so. The bolting was cut just above the browse line of wild and domestic grazing animals, approximately 2m above ground level. Many stems grew from the bolting, providing increased amounts of firewood, lumber and fodder. Pollarding extends the lifespan of trees far beyond their natural limits, up to 500 years or more, and biodiversity was also increased. As the Industrial Revolution wiped out the way of life practiced by villagers and foresters, most ancient forests now face "lapsed pollarding" issues, where the now much taller and heavier stems split and fall. Efforts are now being made to re-pollard these trees, gradually reducing their crowns and stabilising them.

The European beech has a smooth bark. When other tree species grow in girth their new bark forms a layer underneath the old. Unable to expand, the old bark cracks and forms deep ridges. Locally, **ironbarks** exemplify this characteristic. Beech bark, however, can expand sideways to accommodate growth and stays even by continuously shedding its top layer in miniscule fragments. This smooth bark has a long association with writing. Ancient Romans carved beech-bark graffiti and Saxons and other early Teutonic peoples used beech wood or bark panels to carve runic inscriptions. Over time, and in many languages, the word for beech trees and the word for book became intertwined. In German, for example, a beech is *Buche*, a book *Buch* and the letters of the alphabet are known as *Buchstaben* – literally, the marks made on beech-wood slats. The aforementioned county of Buckinghamshire is so named because "buck" is the old English word for beech.

In England up until the Elizabethan period (1560 -1600 approx.), only those of high social rank – the court, lords and senior clergy - would have possessed chairs; those of lesser rank had to be content with stout oak benches and stools. But change was afoot and a backrest was added to the stool in the late 16th century. These new pieces of furniture, tactfully known as backstools or stick chairs, were the forerunners of the Windsor chair. The Windsor chair differs from other folk furniture in its basic construction: instead of a heavy wooden frame of squared timber, the legs and back supports are turned and are set into holes bored into the seat. Beech wood was predominantly used to make the legs and "bodger" was the name bestowed upon the craftsmen who lived out in the beech forests collecting the timber and shaving it into legs. The seat was made out of elm and ash or yew used for the upper components. There is an informative article about the history of Windsor chairs in *Australian Wood Review* no. 107, June 2020.

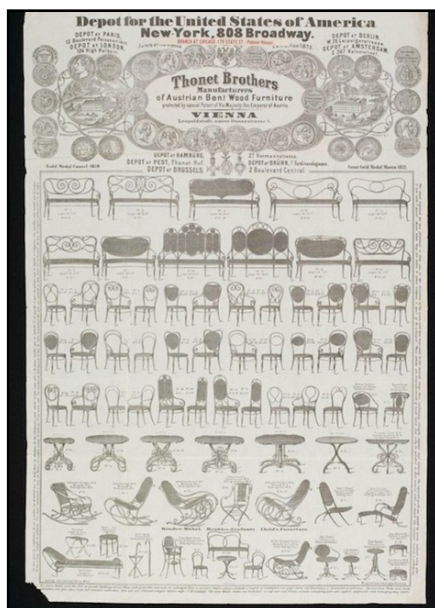


European beech is also central to the invention of bentwood furniture. **Michael Thonet** (1796-1871) was born in Germany and trained as a traditional cabinet-maker. In the 1830s, as an alternative to the laborious technique of carving, he began bending wood to make furniture. Initially things didn't go well – bankruptcy forced a move to Vienna in Austria and ten years later in 1853 Thonet established the family business, Gebrüder Thonet. In 1855 a technological breakthrough was made. After years of bending wood made up of stacks of veneers glued together, he discovered that by adding steam and attaching a metal strap along its length, solid wood could be bent in a similar and repetitive way. Not only was this a cheaper process, the patents guaranteed a virtual monopoly on production. The wood of choice was beech as it is light, strong and very suitable for steam bending into curved, graceful shapes. The beech was first machined into long dowels and then cut to length before bending.

In 1857 the company built a new factory in the Moravian forests in what is now the Czech Republic. There was a ready supply of beech wood, plenty of cheap labour and access to rail links. The design of Thonet (pronounced “toe-net”) furniture directly reflected its ‘production line’ manufacturing process. The making of each element was broken into a series of individual and low skilled tasks. Men did the steaming and bending, women the less arduous tasks of sanding, finishing and caning.



The firm's key design principle was to make chairs from as few parts as possible - the no. 14 chair was made of 8 pieces of wood, 10 screws and 2 nuts. The parts were packed into boxes for ease of shipping and assembled elsewhere by the distributors or retailers. In this way Thonet was able to increase production from 10,000 chairs per year in 1857 to 1,810,00 by 1913. The Thonets built a worldwide network of retail outlets, published multi-lingual catalogues showing every model and were so successful that by 1930 over 50 million model no. 14 chairs alone had been sold. The 1859 **Konsumstuhl Nr. 14** (coffee shop chair no. 14) is known as the “bistro chair” or the “chair of chairs” and is still produced today. Tancks Corner cafe, just down the road from our clubrooms, is full of Thonet no. 18s.



European beech is a pale straw colour, sometimes with a pink or brown hue. Flatsawn surfaces tend to be somewhat plain while quartersawn surfaces exhibit a distinctive ray fleck pattern. Overall workability is good; it machines, glues, finishes and turns well. As noted previously it responds superbly to steam bending. However, it does have a large amount of movement in service, so movement and wood stability must be taken into account.



Beech is an important and widely used hardwood in Europe. Its hardness, wear-resistance, strength and excellent bending capabilities, coupled with its low price, makes this timber a mainstay for many woodworkers. Common uses: lumber, veneer, flooring, boatbuilding, furniture, cabinetry, piano pinblocks, plywood and turned objects. Because of its ability to hold intricate, deep-relief carvings and take gilding or paint well, beech was commonly used for chairs and armchairs during the 18th century in France.

Beech was the traditional choice for moulding planes because it offered an ideal balance of hardness, wear resistance and workability. Its tight, consistent grain and stability, especially when quartersawn, allowed it to hold complex profiles accurately whilst withstanding the constant friction of wood-on-wood contact.

Note the typical beech fleck in the enlargement below.

Nothofagus, also known as the false beech or southern beech, is a genus of 43 species of rainforest trees and shrubs native to the southern hemisphere. They are ancient trees that originated in the supercontinent Gondwana and are now found in fragmented, isolated locations: southern South America (Chile, Argentina), eastern and south eastern Australia, New Zealand, New Guinea and New Caledonia.



There are six Australian trees with the common name of beech. Three are in the *Nothofagus* genus and the other three presumably have some of the characteristics of beech timber. Four occur in the tropical and sub-tropical rainforests of NSW and Queensland:

Canary beech, *Monoon michaelii*

Antarctic beech, *Nothofagus moorei*

Silky beech, *Citronella moorei*

White beech, *Gmelina leichhardtii*

Their distribution is limited and the timber only available locally, if at all.

There are two false beeches found in Tasmania and southern Victoria. **Tangle-foot beech**, *Nothofagus gunnii* is a small tree endemic to the highlands of Tasmania. **Myrtle beech** or **Tasmanian myrtle**, *Nothofagus cunninghamii*, is the dominant species of the Tasmanian and Victorian cool temperate rainforests. The timber from this tree is familiar to many woodworkers. It is a hard timber with strong, tough, close grain. It is a soft pink to reddish brown and can be polished to a fine sheen. It can have a wavy or curly grain that has a very satiny appearance. It generally produces excellent results with both hand and machine tools, however figured wood with abnormal grain can pose difficulties with machining. It glues, stains and finishes well. It is used for decorative veneers, flooring, high-end joinery, and furniture and is good for steam-bending, turnery and carving.



Myrtle beech sometimes can have dark black streaks in the wood, referred to as “**tiger myrtle**”. It is a rare and visually dramatic figure, best displayed when the timber is quarter sawn. A black heart like staining fungus produces the striking lined effect reminiscent of the stripes of a tiger. Sometimes the figuring takes a more dotted form like the spots of a leopard. The figuring also goes from light to dark, creating the appearance of a landscape, which can be spectacular.



End grain description of European beech

The image is magnified x 10.

Pores: Diffuse porous. Solitary and radial multiples.

Growth rings: Sometimes closer to semi-ring-porous with visible growth ring boundaries with decreased pore frequency and size in latewood.

Rays: Medium to very wide; normal spacing; noded.

Parenchyma: Not visible at 10x magnification.

Lookalikes: Because of its very wide rays that produce ray fleck patterns, beech can be confused with other woods with large rays such as maple (*Acer spp.*) and plane (*Platanus spp.*).

Sources:

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<https://friendsgbg.org.au/uploads/images/Plants-in-Focus/Fagus-sylvatica>

<https://www.vam.uk/articles/thonet-and-the-invention-of-bentwood-furniture>

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https://www.wood-database.com/european-beech/https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nothofagus_cunninghamii#

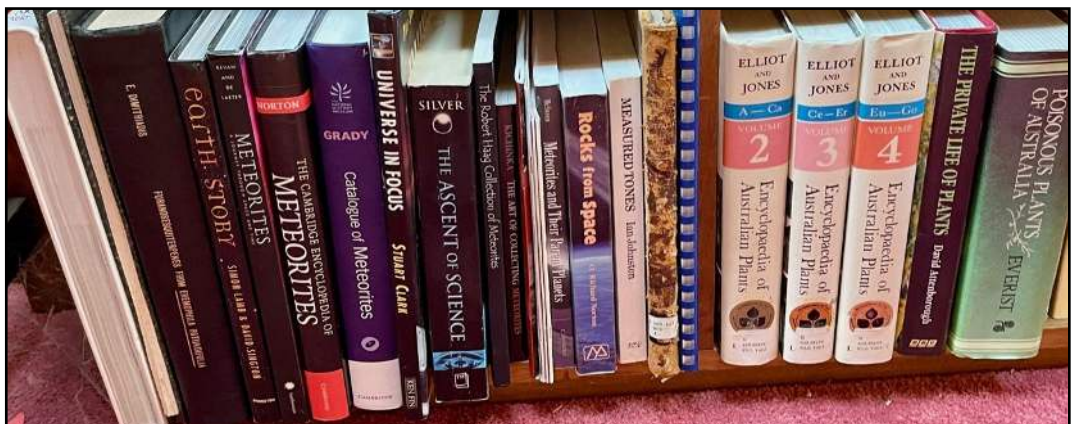
Wood & Tree Library - reference books for Sale

I am preparing to sell most my collection of reference books, especially those that relate to Woods, Trees & Shrubs, Biology, Forestry, etc as well as books that relate to science eg space rocks, botany, geology & geography.

Now I invite expressions of interest from serious AUSTRALIAN IWCS members only. I can send you a list by email if you don't have it already. Prices can be discussed with interested members. I can post in Australia (only) at your expense.

Unsold books may be offered to Book Dealers, online sale or for IWCS auction at my discretion.

Contact: Eugene Dimitriadis #4686 dimitriadis19@gmail.com 0427 890 924 (text)



Doug Malsem Weed Pot Collection

- Harry Dennis IWCS # 9260



Due to the generosity of Malsem Family the opportunity exists to buy Doug's weed pot collection amassed over some 20 years. The shapes vary according to size of blank available and Doug's instinctive design sense of form and shape.

- ◆ 300 Australian species
- ◆ 170 Non Australian species
- ◆ Weed pots various sizes 50 mm to 100 mm in height
- ◆ Available for sale as complete set
- ◆ List of species available from **Harry D 0428 578 859**
- ◆ Price for entire collection \$1500



OPERATION BILBY 2.0 - the Operation so far:

- David Munzberg IWCS # 4849L

All Australasian members should have received 2 copies of the brochure *An Invitation to grow in the International Wood Collectors Society* within the last month, either in the mail with the most recent copy of the *World of Wood* journal or by direct mailing of the brochures for those members who have the digital version.

(If you did not receive by either means, please let me know).

Operation Bilby is not only intended for members to understand the variety and scope of the IWCS member interests, but also how the Society in our Region operates and the opportunities that membership opens up to all of us. Now that each member has the latest version of the brochure, you are asked to read and familiarise yourself with the contents, keeping your own copy at hand and using the second copy to begin the next phase which is ...



RECRUITMENT - an invitation to stimulate all of us to become recruitment officers for the IWCS here in Australasia by becoming aware of the potential for introducing the IWCS to people that we may not yet have imagined as interested in joining our amazing Society. To quote some feedback from the launch of Operation Bilby in the previous Downunder, "*A little done by each of us should bring positive results*". This starts with member enthusiasm for the reveal of the IWCS to the wider population more than ever previously attempted. This is not the only measure that can and, hopefully, will be undertaken to bring wider awareness of the IWCS. This starts with each member using the second copy of the brochure you have received to begin taking the steps outlined below. For more copies of the brochure, please contact me to have them mailed to you.

Please - do not photocopy the brochure so that the quality is not compromised.

- always have the A4 *Membership Application or Renewal* form retained as part of the brochure.

If you take on the role of an *Operation Bilby 'Recruitment Officer'* for the Australasian Region of the IWCS here are some steps you may consider:-

Step 1. Identify wood related businesses, for example hardware stores, timber suppliers, wood turning and wood-focused clubs, art collectives, etc.

Keep in mind that the businesses and clubs you approach have everything to gain and nothing to lose by having our IWCS publicity on display. The IWCS is in the business of a complimentary, not a competitive role, of learning about all aspects of wood.

Step 2. Send me an email at davidleonmunzberg@gmail.com requesting:

A generous supply of the trifold brochures and the Membership Renewal/ Application forms, which should always be together. Let me know how many to post to you.

Step 3. If you want to display multiple brochures, purchase enough of the brochure stands as shown, at a cost of around \$6 ea. (Ask for reimbursement through me.) Also, let me know how many brochure stand labels you need to attach to the stands (as shown). This photograph shows how Allan Plunkett in SA set up brochure displays in several locations.

I will mail these labels to you at no cost.



Interested in WOOD?

Please take an informational brochure from
the INTERNATIONAL WOOD COLLECTORS Soc.

For more brochures contact:

Me at (Recruitment officer contact)

Step 4. When you have taken this step, let me know where you have placed the fully set up brochure stands.

Why? To gather data indicating where the interest resides and to respond to that by ensuring we have a ready supply of brochures.

Remember, we have not made a concerted effort like this to reach out to the world of wood and woodworking. This initiative is just the first step. We do need to see how and where it's succeeding. At this stage you ought to be congratulated on your success as an *Operation Bilby 'Recruitment Officer'*.

Step 5. Monitor the supply of brochures and keep replenishing the brochure stands. Send me a report of how things are going.

Name of brochure display location

Number of brochures initially placed in each of the locations.....

then number taken..... and number re-stocked

I will set up a data base from the figures you send to me.

Any questions or comments? Drop me an email at davidleonmunzberg@gmail.com

Let's see if our collective efforts to gain membership can be as successful as the measures taken to save the Bilby from extinction! The bilbies are on the way back and so can we!

Southern Penda (*Xanthostemon oppositifolius*)

~ Bob Whitworth IWCS # 10085

Something like 30 years ago, I was given a piece of Southern Penda (SP) wood. It was obviously a special wood, very dense and dark, close grained and taking a good polish. I have an interest in local rainforest timbers and set out to procure some more wood and even to see a proper tree. After about 5 years, I had no luck and placed a note on the local notice board. I then received a phone call from someone who had some boards. He knew it was a rare tree and a special wood and told me the price he was asking. The price was so incredibly high, I have to a degree forgotten what he was asking but it was way too expensive for me! In retrospect, maybe the price he was asking was fair and reasonable!

About a week ago, a friend of mine told me that a SP tree had blown over at his place after a severe storm and offered me some reject pieces. I brought these home with me with the intention of sawing them up on my mill while he would keep the best three logs and try to sell them. I'm a member of the International Wood Collectors' Society and am sure there are plenty of members who would be interested in a sample piece which I'm happy to give away or for a small donation. My question is, what would be a fair price for the logs, or probably would it be best to saw them into boards and the obvious question would be into what dimensions?

If you look it up in the text books, in *Australian Rainforest Timbers* written in 1926 by W D Francis, who by the way was born at KinKin. KinKin is probably the centre of where it grew best and has a road named after it called, Pender (yes a different spelling) Creek Road. His book has some photographs of the tree and states the tree grew to 140 feet tall with a 5ft diameter. He goes on to say that the wood is dark, very dense and non fissile, that is does not split easily. I personally call it KinKin Penda.

In the Qld government book of 1964, *Valuable Qld Trees and Qld Building Timbers*, it is listed as dense at 70 lbs per cubic foot, (1121 kgs per cubic metre). That is, dry wood will not float. It is the most dense wood listed. Interestingly, it is not a durable wood which makes it a bit like wattle which is also dense, hard, dark and non durable. The log from the fallen tree was the result from decay in the butt.

There used to be the largest sawmill in the southern hemisphere just north of Boreen Point. It closed down well over a hundred and twenty years ago now and almost nothing remains. There used to be a train line going west to Wahpunga. A short history has been written of the mill, the disappeared town and the line. In it, they mentioned that SP was one of the trees they used to log for timber and also used for bridges and rails but it proved unsuccessful due to poor durability.

Before I was given my first sample, I was aware of the tree and even knew of a few small ones which were just the size of a large shrub. I collect a few seeds for various nurseries and SP can set seed when still very small. I have even seen flowers and seeds on plants only 2 feet tall. This is unusual for trees that potentially can grow so large. If a shrub is seen growing in the open, they have dense foliage with low branches. These low branches can touch the ground and take root. If they are pulled out of the ground and planted, they will take root and grow into a tree. In all the intervening years from my first knowledge of the tree, which is now over 50 years ago, I only found two small trees but nothing of any size. When I visited this property to collect the logs, I saw several full sized trees, something I was most pleased to see. Yes, good looking healthy forest and SP trees.

If anyone is interested, the local Landcare nurseries have available some potted plants. KinKin is already famous in the tree world. As I mentioned, WD Francis was born there. He became the government botanist and wrote the book mentioned above. He has an impressive tree named after him, the Giant Water Gum, (*Syzygium francisii*) which is relatively common. It has distinctive purple fruit. One has been planted at KinKin in the centre of the roundabout in front of the hall. KinKin is also famous for its giant Kauri Pine which unfortunately has gone, but photographs exist of it. I would like this tree, the SP, to be also another special tree in KinKin that needs to be better known.

Yes, my question, what is a fair value for the wood?



IWCS – Australasian Region 2026 AGM – MATHOURA NSW

Auction – Call for donation of items

In just a few short months, we will be holding our AGM in Mathoura, situated by the meandering course of the Murray River in southern NSW. We will be enjoying the company of friends, learning about the rich history of the forests and timber industry along the river, and exploring the extensive stands of River Red Gum (*Eucalyptus camaldulensis*) that thrive in this area.

As part of the week's activities, once again we will be holding an auction of anything and everything associated with wood. Auctions in recent years have been a lot of fun for everyone present as well as a successful fundraising event for our society, and we look forward to another morning of exciting entertainment as an eclectic collection of items goes under the hammer.

Please consider what you might have available to donate for the auction and advise at your earliest convenience. Go through your cupboards, drawers and wardrobes. Look in the old storage boxes, tea chests, trunks and crates that we all have somewhere in the garage or shed. Rummage in your wood stash and scour your bookshelves. As well as timber, wood and standard samples, we are interested in books, tools, memorabilia, artifacts, instruments, wood finishes and prepared microscope slides. If it was once of interest to you, chances are someone else will want to bid for it.

When you have your items ready, please let us know so we can collate everything into a consolidated list prior to the conference. The preferred format for receipt of your information is an excel spreadsheet, a sample of which is shown below. However, please don't let that be a restriction! If excel is not your thing, a list that is typed or written neatly by hand will do. Please just make sure it contains the information required (see below).

Your list can be sent by email (please make the subject line "IWCS Auction 26") to Peter Ball (#10457) at the following email address: ziegenbock2019@gmail.com

or mail it to: Peter Ball PO Box 159 Berwick VIC 3806

The minimum information required is:

- * **Item number** – numerical list of items donated - this is not the lot number at the auction.
- * **Description of the item** - sufficient information to identify the type of object e.g. book (title, author, edition, no of pages etc), standard samples, log (half round, 250 mm diam), log (round, 100 mm diam x 650mm long). If in doubt give as much info as possible - it can be reduced, if necessary, in the final document. If you are submitting an excel spreadsheet, use 'wrap text' in the description column and I will reformat where necessary.
- * **Species of timber/wood** – both common and botanical names if known.
- * **Dimensions of the item** i.e. length, width and depth, diameter or radius in millimetres where this helps quantify the size of the object.

Item No.	Description	Species		Size (mm)			Donor
		Common name	Botanical name	Length	Width	Height	

Lot numbers will be allocated when the auction list is finalised, and the list will be published by Sunday 23rd August 2026. Lot numbers should be attached to lots prior to you arriving in Mathoura.

Peter Ball and Carol Goddard (#10457) will compile the item list and will be handling record keeping on auction day. If anyone else would like to volunteer to arrange the display of items prior to the auction, it would be greatly appreciated.

David Munzberg and Shirley Schubert will be our auctioneers on the day, but if there are any more aspiring auctioneers out there who would like a chance at stardom this year, or if you would like to volunteer as a helper to present the items sequentially as the auction proceeds, we would appreciate your stepping forward to join the team David will put together. Contact him to volunteer. No prior experience necessary!

In summary the key dates are: -

- **Last day for receipt of entries – Friday 14th August 2026**
- **Completed auction lists to be emailed to all attendees – Sunday 23rd August 2026**
- **Individual lot numbers to be advised by email – Sunday 23rd August 2026**
- **Set up for Auction - Monday 7th September at 9am.**

IWCS MEETING IN MATHOURA 2026

Meeting Arrangements

3/4/26 Prepared by John Lyons on behalf of the organisers Peter Stone, Ian Heffernan, Harry Dennis, Peter Ball, David Munzberg & John Tillack

Outline

This will be a week-long meeting based in the Riverina town of Mathoura, NSW with tours of the local region including Echuca, Koondrook and Barmah.

Theme

"Celebrating the mighty River Red Gum, *Eucalyptus camaldulensis* subsp. *camaldulensis*", on the edge of the Cadell Tilt, the 100km earthquake lift that changed the course of the Murray and created the enormous River Red Gum forests and the Barmah Choke.

Format

In addition to our AGM, auction, presentations and open sessions for the public in Mathoura, tours include sawmill visits, historical markers, river boat cruises, and viewing spectacular historical River Red Gums.

Cost

Accommodation at the Mathoura Red Gum Motel at \$129 for a couple per day or \$139 twin share.

Conference Registration around \$350 will cover vehicle hire, most meals and tour charges.

Echuca riverboat cruise and winery luncheon an optional extra for \$135

Timing

Registration on Sunday 6 September 2026 with the programme commencing on Monday morning 7 September at 9am and concluding with a farewell dinner Friday 11 September.

Getting Around

Coach transport for the three touring days.

Weather

At this time, typical early spring temperatures range from overnight lows of 5°C to daily maximums of 20°C.

Program

Sunday: Arrival and registration from 4pm at the Mathoura Red Gum Motel followed by welcome BBQ (BYO)

Monday (Mathoura Hall):

Morning: Set up for Auction, AGM

Afternoon: Presentations, Displays, Private Sales Opportunity (public invited)

Tuesday (Mathoura Hall):

Morning: Auction (public invited)

Afternoon: Sawmill Visit

Evening: Pizza dinner at Picnic Point, Timbercutter Restaurant

Wednesday:

Nathalia's Barmah Forest Heritage & Education Centre

Barmah Choke boat cruise and Codes Pile in the Barmah Forest

Thursday:

Echuca historic township and optional riverboat winery cruise on PS Canberra

Friday:

Koondrook Sawmill visit, Border Flywheelers Museum, Gunbower Island and the 'Eagle Tree'

Farewell Dinner: a la carte at the Timbercutter Restaurant (at own cost)

Saturday: Depart

Accommodation

Rooms have been reserved under the name 'John Lyons' for six nights at either \$129 for a couple or \$139 or twin share. Please call the Mathoura Red Gum Motel direct on 03 5884 3404 and ask to take over one of those rooms accordingly. The proprietors will want a credit card number to change the reservation.

Registration

Registration forms will be finalised and sent out to members who indicate they are likely to attend, and included in the June Downunder.

AROUND THE STATES

News from Victoria

- John Lyons IWCS # 9737

Hosted by Peter Goddard and Hank Tyler, an enthusiastic fifteen or so Victorian members visited the Eltham & District Woodworkers Club in February; Friday the 13th as it turned out, but no bad luck ensued.

We were able to join in with a normal carving workshop at the club as seen in Eugene's photos; right up the alley of our own carvers extraordinaire Carl Lutz and Merv Bullas. We hadn't caught up much with Merv of late during Janet's illness but with her recent passing it was good to see him in such fine form. During the morning tea (stretching into lunch session) we were treated to many fine Show & Tell items but the highlights were posters of both Merv's and Carl's carvings, seen spread out across the tables.



Carl's carvings on the left, Merv's on the right



Peter Goddard has members enthralled during his presentation

Peter entertained the group with an account of how this developed and even unveiled his own digital microscopy set up to illustrate end grain patterns for more sophisticated identification.



Peter's unique digital microscopy set-up

Peter has produced many amusing wood related articles for the Eltham club's newsletter and promises to republish them in Downunder. Space probably doesn't allow for them this time but watch out in future editions.

At the meeting Keith Towe raised the issue of utilising former member David Cummings' collection of World of Wood magazines. Kismet! Peter and

Hank could provide just the right home for them in the clubrooms and by now I think Peter Ball has managed the transfer. It's good to see them reused.



Peter and Hank have been instrumental in building a collection of standard samples for club members to use as a reference tool in identifying woods they are using. The collection has pride of place in a workroom and features many samples sourced from IWCS.



Keith Towe examining the collection of standard samples. Kumiko lamp in front



Jane, the club's president and a member making Japanese Kumiko wood for lamps



Barring anything else coming up in the meantime Vic members resolved to catch up on the second weekend in July at the Berwick District Woodworkers club annual exhibition. Watch out for details in the next Downunder and an email to confirm details closer to the time.



Photos provided by Eugene Dimitriadis

News from Western Australia

- Ian Kealley IWCS # 9748

IWCS activities in WA have been low key so far in 2026. Members remain busy with their individual activities and woodwork associated groups. Several members have also been on holidays and travelling.

Ian Kealley continues to make new timber samples for his collection and to supply to WA and other collectors.



Recent additions include:

BELL-FRUITED MALLEE, *Euc preissiana* subsp *preissiana*, #44. Photos included from Wikipedia.

LONG-FLOWERED MARLOCK, *Euc macranda*, #95

YELLOW MALLET, *Euc extensa*, 97E

ROUGH-BARKED GIMLET, *Euc. effusa*, #132

YALATA MALLEE, *Euc yalatensis*, #85

GUM-BARKED COOLIBAH, *Euc victrix*, #304

WANDOO BURL, *Euc wandoo* (burl), #99B

FLOODED GUM, *Euc rudis* subsp *rudis*, #298

SPOTTED GUM, *Euc maculata*, #1-7

SYDNEY GOLDEN WATTLE, *Acacia longifolia*, #453

MENZIES' BANKSIA, *Banksia menziesii*, #906

CHENILLE HONEYMYRTLE, *Melaleuca huegelii*, #905

PEPPER TREE BURL, *Schinus molle* (burl), #709B

BLACK LOCUST, *Robina pseudoacacia*, #907



For those who didn't see the fabulous Jack Bradshaw video about WA forests and woodlands on our Facebook page have a look on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uBCvDI53n6Q>

TAKE A LOOK AT THIS !

https://www.youtube.com/shorts/fNwKgiSj_rg

Nick Englar, an IWCS member from West Milton Ohio USA, has a youtube site called Workshop Companion. His subject matter and delivery are outstanding and speak right to the core of what the IWCS is all about. Check out his videos!

The IWCS Secretary has reported that around 40 new members have joined the IWCS in February/March as a result of the video.

Montville Timber Trail

- Geoff Holloway IWCS # 9971

The Queensland Sunshine Coast hinterland town of Montville will host the Montville Timber Trail on the first weekend in May. Due to the uncertainty of the Maleny Wood Expo moving to October and under new management, this may be the event that will provide the needs and interests of wood enthusiasts in Southeast Queensland.

IWCS for many years were exhibitors at the Maleny Wood Expo and my approach to the new management of the proposed October event has been unanswered. I will be attending the Montville Timber Trail and report on the event in the next newsletter. <https://www.montvilletimbertrail.com>





AUSTRALIAN

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION or RENEWAL



FOR the INTERNATIONAL WOOD COLLECTORS SOCIETY

For Australian residents renewing or applying for new membership -

Direct Debit NAB BSB 084-447 A/c 53-671-8141 (Quote Surname, IWCS No.)

Or, make cheques payable to: IWCS Australasian Region

Post to: Jim & Shirley Schubert (Australian IWCS Membership Secretary)

205A Beasley Street, Mawson ACT 2607

Phone: 0434 935 112 Email: schubertwoodturning@gmail.com

Name:
(last name) (first name)

Spouse/Partner:
(last name) (first name)

Street Address:

Suburb/Town: State: Aust Post Code:

Date of this Application: / / Phone: (.....)

Mobile: Email:

Would you like to host travelling IWCS members? ()

Membership # (if renewing)

Our / My Interests in Wood

To assist IWCS in providing information best suited to your interests and expectations, please circle the number/s below which indicate your particular interests and reasons for joining IWCS.

1. **Wood Collecting:** casual or serious interest in acquiring wood specimens, interested in field collecting, interested in collecting crafted wood items.

Comments:

2. **Wood /Wood technology:** dendrology, study of trees, timber research, wood identification, wood anatomy, microtomy.

Comments:

3. **Wood Supplier:** willing to trade or supply wood for samples or craft purposes

4. **Woodworking Projects:** boxes, canes, games, toys, puzzles, clocks, jewelry, craft items, models, miniatures, musical instruments, furniture, cabinetry.

Comments:

5. **Woodworking Techniques:** carving, marquetry, intarsia, pyrography, spindle or bowl turning, ornamental turning.

Comments:

6. **Other Wood,** wood crafting or wood related interests:

Comments:

7. **Teaching, Writing or Instruction:** would write articles for IWCS or demonstrate/present at IWCS meetings.

Comments:

My occupation is (was)

Recruited by: State and Country:

For further information: Check out the Society's website: <http://woodcollectors.org>

Australasian Region Trustee: John Lyons jae@ozemail.com.au 0425 871 565

State Representatives: South Australia: David Munzberg 0408 806 900

Victoria: John Lyons 0425 871 565

Queensland: Geoff Holloway 0422 450 972

Western Australia: Ian Kealley 0417 979 904

Please complete

Full membership for 1, 2 or 3 years at A\$80, A\$160 or A\$240

☐

Online membership at A\$65, A\$130 or A\$195

☐

Student membership A\$30 Per year

☐

MEMBERSHIP
OFFICER
USE

Date application received:/...../..... Memb. Type: () Family () Corporate
Cheque #: Amount: \$..... Dues paid through to:/...../.....
New member () Renewal of membership () IWCS Membership #

Individual or couple membership: A\$80 including hard copy journal, for 1 year A\$160, for 2 years, or A\$240 for 3 years.

For on-line journal only: A\$65 for 1 year, A\$130 for 2 years, or A\$195 for 3 years.

Student: A\$30 Online journal only. (Please supply course details.)

IWCS Membership