

Marquetry Matters



The Quarterly Newsletter of

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2019



Editorial

So here we are again, at the end of another year, where do they go?!

The front page says it all – From all at the Marquetry Society of Victoria we wish all readers the happiest of Xmas and the happiest of New Years.

What will 20/20 bring? It has a certain ring to it, doesn't it? I just had to Google it! -

20/20 vision is a term used to express normal visual acuity (the clarity or sharpness of vision) measured at a distance of 20 feet. If you have 20/20 vision, you can see clearly at 20 feet what should normally be seen at that distance. If you have 20/100 vision, it means that you must be as close as 20 feet to see what a person with normal vision can see at 100 feet.

So there you are – may we all have 20/20 vision in all that we do in the coming year!

The only real news that I have for you this edition is the annual shows which, when you come to think of it, is what we have to motivate ourselves into continuing this fascinating craft.

Do hope you enjoy this edition. The three Cs are always welcome: Criticism, Comment or Contribution!

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Member News

Nothing much to report on this subject. Good to see Marjorie back in the swim of things and Chas' eye problem appears to be improving – hang in there Chas. Our best wishes extend to Walter who has had a hand operation which obviously limits his marquetry activity greatly!

I hardly ever receive a 'note to the editor' so am very grateful to John Wright who, whilst not being an actual member of the Society, is a stalwart 'Associate Member' carrying on where John Hassell left off. I do hope I don't embarrass John by reproducing his note in full:

Dear Dennis I (John Wright) have received from you the latest edition of Marquetry Matters. As usual it contains a multitude of useful & interesting information. I don't know how you do it but I congratulate you.

Just a reminder whom I am. I Tutor a Marq. class at Kingston U3A having taken over from John Hassell when he left the class to do other things, He eventually came back but not as Tutor & then as we know he became ill & passed away a few years ago. I was forever grateful that he started the class in Mordialloc as I would never have known about Marquetry. I used to enter the Melb. Show & received many awards including 2 seconds but I could never "knock off" the M.S. artists.

I have not entered for about 3 years, I am close to 91 yrs. & the process of entering became a bit too much for me but at least I keep my hand in at home & at U3A where I have 9 members which includes 7 ladies who do very good work.

It is a great Hobby & a shame we cannot get more people interested. I don't know whether I can go on next year, a 91 year Tutor, that can't be possible can it? **

I look forward to future editions of M.M. Kindest Regards. John Wright

** Good on you John, of course it can!

Keep the flag flying!

Got a Minute or Two (Designed to keep the members informed who are unable to get to the meetings)

Our Hon Sec. has been kept bust over the past three months with correspondence In/Out being Sept. 12/3; Oct. 10/3 and Nov.6/2. Many items of a continuing admin nature but a few creating some interesting

discussion at the various meetings. It's good to see 'kindred' organisations keeping us up-to-date with their activities. Links are given to these below under 'Something for the Internet Types'.

Good to see the Woodsmith still going strong if only with Open Days rather than ordinary shop hours. And we were able to pass on an enquiry for dyed veneers to our local supplier now of veneers Australian Premier Veneers.

We have expressed interest in displaying at the Nunawading Library next year.

We need to put our thinking caps on regarding the future of Henry Moritz's works, if only to give Chas a bit more room in his living room!

At the October meeting we actually had a Show and Tell segment! Thanks Chas for showing us your 'Strip Cutter' and 'Diamond Cutter'.

Repeated Entreaty

I can't help myself but reproduce, in full, the communication that we get each year from the Contemporary Arts Society. I strongly feel that we should be represented in this annual event so put out a call to any member who has an A4 partly finished work to finish it in time, mount it in a thin form and get it in. **Otherwise let us make a conscious decision to be in it next year and start planning for it now!**

We are calling for entries to A4 Art Australia, an initiative and exhibition opportunity from The Contemporary Art Society of Victoria. See our website for all details, conditions of entry & online entry form: www.contemporaryartsociety.org.au

More info:

A4 Art Australia is run by the Contemporary Art Society of Victoria Inc. The Society is a non-profit organization, run on a voluntary basis by artists for the benefit of artists and those interested in the arts. It is based in Melbourne, Victoria, Australia, and was founded in 1938.

A4 Art Australia will be held in the Gallery on Herring Island (Richmond) as part of the Herring Island Summer Arts Festival 2020. Melbourne. Herring Island is a unique island in the middle of the Yarra River, between Richmond and South Yarra, only 3km from the Melbourne CBD. The festival website is <http://www.herringislandfestival.org.au/>.

Maximum allowed thickness is 3mm, as this is the maximum thickness we can frame under glass in the frames provided.

Ed Note: This equates to 4 or 5 thicknesses of veneer.

The exhibition (and gallery) will be open to the public 11.30am - 4.30pm on the following dates: 14, 15, 21, 22, 27, 28, 29 March and 4, 6, 10, 11, 12, 13 April, 2020.

Entry cost: Entry is AU\$13 per work...Plus a fixed \$10 postage charge for return of your unsold works (refundable if you sell all your work).

Additional size/weight-related postage charges apply for 3D works.

Note: Entry fees can be paid by PayPal / cheque / money order / credit card / EFT.

How to enter: ENTER ONLINE via our website. Deadline: Completed entry form, with correct payment together with your 2 dimensional art works, by 28 February 2019. (see conditions of entry)

Deadline for receipt of entries: 21 February 2020.

Dates for Your Diaries

Nunawading Library display dates: 23rd March to 28th April, 2020

Happenings / Shows

The Royal Agricultural Show

5 members submitted works to the recent Royal Show and the winners were proclaimed as follows:

1st Untitled by Jan Slagter; 2nd Barbershop Quartet by John Higgins; 3rd Cockatiels by Charles Watt; Very Highly Commended Burano by Greg Craig and Highly Commended WAFL by Charles Watt.

Ed Note for overseas readers: WAFL is the Women's Australian Football League.

All are illustrated below. Well done all!



The Dandenong Show

1st John Higgins – ‘Barbershop Quartet’; 2nd Greg Craig – ‘Burano’; 3rd. Elsie Knaepple – ‘Little Bird’; Christmas Theme - 1st Charles Watt –Christmas Card. All who entered got awards – Well done!

The Timber & Artisan Show (Formerly The Working With Wood Show)

Chas and I visited the show if only to give our apologies to Candice for pulling out at the last moment; we just didn’t have the people to service it this year for one reason or another. Fortunately Candice understood and looks forward to our involvement next year. We have expressed such interest.

The Lilydale Show

I visited this my local show to check it out for the future. The Art Tent appeared a bit dismal to my taste but was well patronised. We will give serious consideration to being part of this next year.

Nunawading Library Community Display Programme 2020

We have given the organisers a commitment to be part of this next year. Display dates are 23rd March to 28th April 2020 which are before the next issue of MM so keep this in mind for future meetings.

Something for the Internet Types / Miscellaneous Internet Links

The Hannah Cabinet is in the news again. A massive call for support was issued a year or so ago: “The aim of this project is to raise \$1M over the next 22 months to purchase the Hannah Cabinet to become part of the permanent collection of the Lismore Regional Gallery”. Well they’ve done it! See www.hannahcabinet.com

The Bead Society of Victoria: www.beadsociety.com.au

The Hand Tool Preservation Society: <https://www.htpaa.org.au/>

The Craft Events Team: craft@expertiseevents.com.au

The Australian Charity Guide <info@australiancharityguide.org>

I regularly receive a great deal of info from FineWoodworking@e.taunton.com; a couple of items resonated with me recently. You might like to check them out:

Decorative stringing is just one of the details that make period furniture stand out from the crowd. The delicate, whimsical lines that adorn fine crafted furniture date back to America’s infancy and have been copied by furniture makers ever since. With the right tools and a bit of patience, however, any intermediate-level furniture maker can tackle basic stringing.

In this video, part one of a three-part series, period furniture master Steve Latta demonstrates simple inlay techniques that yield stunning stringing.

Creating Stamped Patterns in Wood - In this video, Tim Coleman shows some of his early stamped-pattern work made entirely with letters, as well as later patterns made of combinations of altered shapes, especially circles, ovals, and crescents.

And also another one: <https://www.finewoodworking.com/2017/02/08/shopmade-drawing-bow>

I also receive a similar amount of stuff from Matilda Veneer in Queensland, in fact a monthly newsletter. I found the following blog particularly interesting. It shows the production of veneer from log to application: <https://mailchi.mp/b6dbd0a65300/matilda-blog-art-of-veneering?e=7f6d75db09>

Our Xmas Show

For such a small active membership I think we (that is, all 7 other members – I haven’t produced a piece of marquetry since heaven knows when!) put on a pretty good show!

The Open Class attracted 6 members with 14 entries; the Topic was Sport and this attracted 6 members with 10 entries and the Applied attracted 2 members only with 3 entries. The competition results were:

Open Class: 1st Eastern Spinebill (?) by Bob Taylor; 2nd Going to Fly by Elsie Knaepple; 3rd Cockatiels by Charles Watt; Highly Commended Lion by Jan Slagter and Barbers’ Shop Quartet by John Higgins.

Topic – Sport: 1st Fly Fishing by John Higgins; 2nd Flag in the Barrel 2 by John Higgins; 3rd Abseiling by Elsie Knaepple; Highly Commended: Soccer by Jan Slagter and Flag in the Barrel 1 by John Higgins.

Applied: 1st Jewellery Box by Bob Taylor; 2nd Coasters by Bob Taylor and 3rd Tissue Box by Jan Slagter.

Most Appealing Piece: Barbers’ Shop Quartet by John Higgins.

The Barilli Trophy: Barbers’ Shop Quartet by John Higgins.

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Presentations of certificates by our President Elsie Knaepple:



Open Class First



Topic First



Open Class Second



Topic Second



Open Class Third



Topic Third but where's Elsie?!



Open Class HC



Topic HC



Open Class HC
Most Appealing Piece
The Barilli Trophv



Topic HC but where's
John Higgins?!

←Wow!→

Technical Notes

I recently had a 'one thing leads to another' experience that started with me downloading an e-article in the Woodworkers Journal (woodworkersjournal.com) of August 2019. Entitled "Finishing Thoughts – Best Finish for Marquetry" it is by Michael Dresdner who is a nationally known finishing expert in the U.S. Via a question and answer approach he describes the use of a de-waxed shellac as an excellent finish for marquetry pictures.

As I had just been revisiting the programme for the recent Timber, Tools & Artisan Show I remembered seeing a company mentioned 'Art Tree Creations' and wondered whether they stocked a de-waxed shellac. On their website arttreecreations.com.au they appear not to but they advertise an extensive range of art materials especially casting resins, all most interesting but irrelevant to the current search! So I googled 'de-waxed shellac' and came up with another string of interesting information! Here I came upon U Beaut Polishes – White Shellac 500ml #280 @ \$40.40 and lo-and-behold it mentions our local Pops Shed (popsshed.com.au) as a distributor for same. The following product specification is hard to precis so is reproduced 'in toto':



Dewaxed White Shellac is used the same way as you would use any of the other varieties of shellac. The major difference between this shellac and the others is that it is a bit harder, shines a bit brighter, is completely free from wax and will not change the natural, wet colour of wood. Because it has been bleached it has a particular characteristic that helps set it apart from most of the others.

This polish will not darken the colour of the timber it is applied to any more than putting water on to the timber would. This makes it ideal for use on white woods where discolouring of the timber is not wanted. It is also brilliant on most other timber colours as it will not hide or darken the grain in the slightest way, but instead will enhance the timbers natural beauty.

Interesting to note is that the product is for Pick Up only – obviously a 'dangerous goods' classification!

This Month's Design

I don't know where this picture came from but copyright shouldn't be a problem as there is no sign of an artist's signature. Sort of Xmas spirit isn't it?! I've called it "Delightful Dog" but if anyone can offer a better one please do!



**THE MARQUETRY SOCIETY OF VICTORIA
INC**

The aim of our non-profit Society is to promote and foster interest in the art and craft of marquetry.

Meetings are held at the
Box Hill Community Arts Centre,
Cnr. Combarton and Station Streets, Box Hill,
Melways 47 D11

on the fourth Saturday of the month, 12.30pm to
3.30pm with hands-on workshops on the second
Saturday of the month, same times.

Hands-on workshops are also held on Tuesday
afternoon of each week, 1pm to 3pm, at the
Scout Hall, Cnr. Edith Street and Heathmont Road,
Heathmont. Melways 50-A11

Phone anyone to check times.

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INTERNET & EMAIL

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MEMBERSHIP OF THE SOCIETY

Direct all enquires to the Secretary.
An annual membership fee of \$40 and a
joining fee of \$6 apply.

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MARQUETRY MATTERS

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Other marquetry associations are welcome to
use this material provided credit is given to
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MEETING & WORKSHOP DATES

coming up

SATURDAY 12.30 to 3.30 P.M.

@ BOX HILL

Meeting	18 th January
Workshop	8 th February
Meeting	22 nd February
Workshop	14 th March
Meeting	28 th March
Workshop	11 th April
Meeting	25 th April ?