



Crosscut

Newsletter of the Witwatersrand Woodworkers' Association

◀ Marking gauges from Patrick Leach's booth at Woodworking in America
- from Practical Woodworking Magazine

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Next Turners Meeting on Monday, the 4th May 2015 – General meeting from 18h00 at WWA clubhouse at the Living Link Hall. Liming technique – demo by Peter Middleton.
Wood of the month: Oregon pine (Douglas fir)

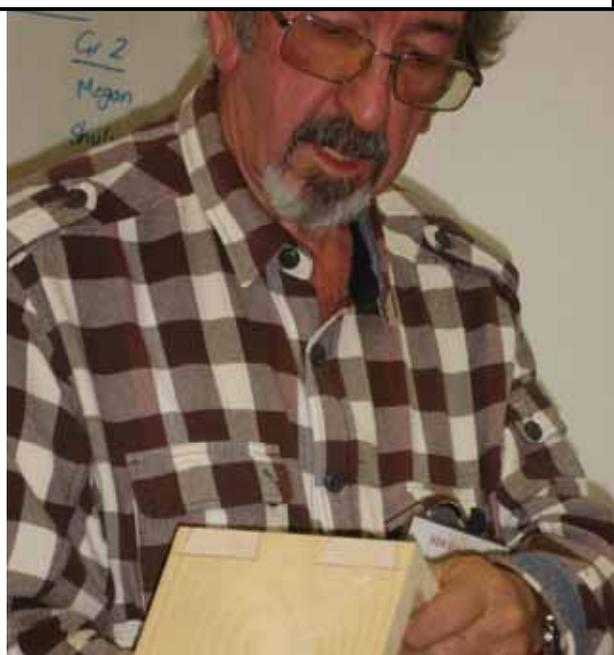
Next Meeting on Wednesday, the 13th May 2015 – General meeting from 18h00 at WWA clubhouse at the Living Link Hall. AGM and Festool presentation

News

April 2015 - Combined Turner's and General Club meeting.

Some time was spent planning for decorating the new workshop in Albertskroon and planning the move. See the pictures below.

Cutting dovetail joints by hand – Ken Bullivant demonstrated how to cut a simple through dovetail joint to connect two boards at right angles, end to end. He showed the basics of laying the joint and then cutting it by hand. Options of using templates, bevel gauges and marking gauges for layout were given. Ken used a “gent’s saw” which is a small dovetail saw with a cylindrical handle, followed by a fret saw to saw out the waste, followed by some paring to the marked lines. Ken cut the tails first and then marked the pins from the tails, although he says the order he uses (pins or tails first) depends on the job in hand. The joint fitted together after the second trial fit, and looked very respectable!



Club Notices

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS: 2015 / 2016 year

Subject to approval at the meeting, membership subscriptions for 2015 / 2016 are due on 1 June 2015 for R375- per year. Country, spousal and scholar subs are R100- per year.

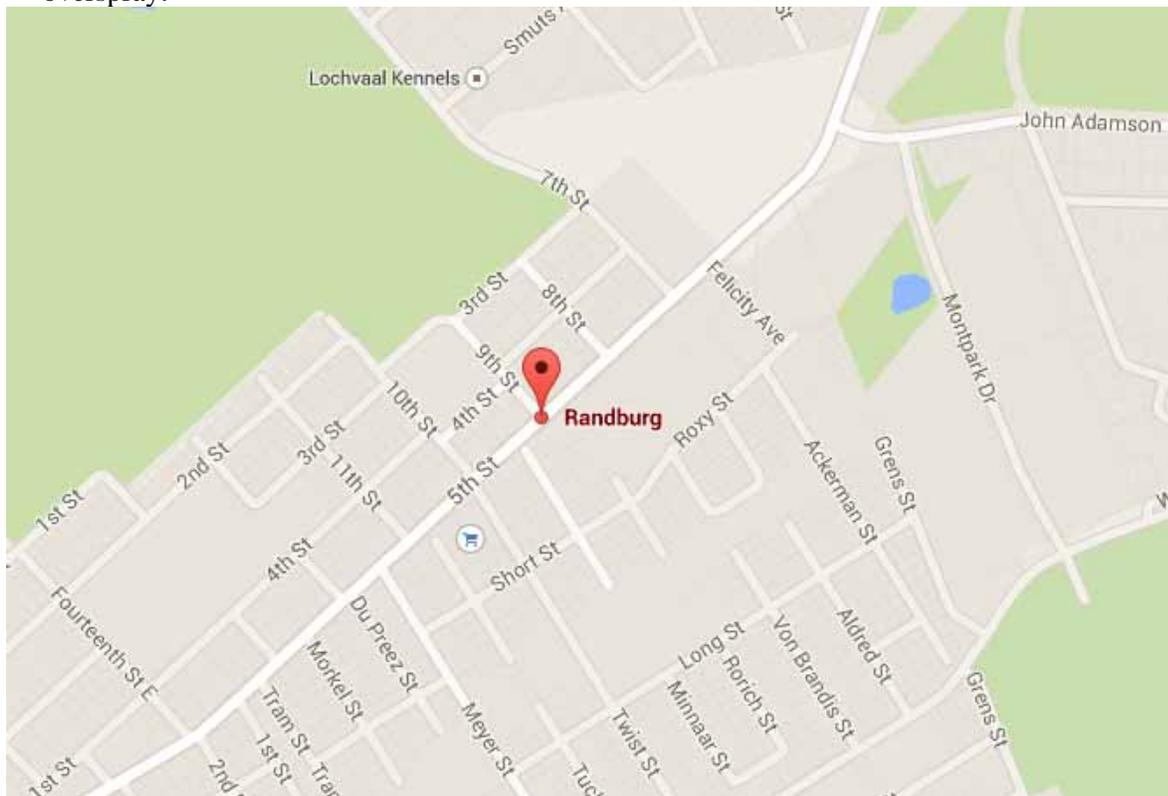
Please pay the Treasurer before the end of April to maintain continuity of your membership. Post cheques to the address in the masthead of this newsletter. Details for direct deposits are on your *personal* invoice below. Thank you.

Ken Mutch Secretary

01 May 2015		INVOICE
AMOUNT	DUE DATE	
R375-00	01 June 2015	SUBSCRIPTION for the Witwatersrand Woodworkers Association - 2015/2016 year
		Direct deposits to: Witwatersrand Woodworkers Association.

		<p>Nedbank Main St. branch - Code: 190805. Account No: 1979-321833 – Put your name in the comment line, so that the treasurer can identify the source of the payment. Internet transfers are preferred. If you deposit cash, please increase the amount to include the cash deposit charge.</p>
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New Clubhouse – situated just off the corner of 5th St and 9th St in Albertskroon on the west side of Johannesburg. A shop called Wood and Wotnots, resplendent in green, is on the corner. The entrance to the yard is in 5th St just around the corner. Prior to the move, Saturday, 11th April and the following week was spent painting, fixing and preparing for the move. The move took place on Saturday, the 18th April. With all hands on deck, and the valuable use of a hydraulic crane truck organised by Frans we were able to move the heavy equipment in the morning. The small stuff was moved in bakkies and boots of cars. The map shows the location: To the NW is Alberts Farm Park, and to the SE is the Jewish section of Westpark Cemetery. If you drive from Northcliff Corner, West along Milner Ave, it becomes 5th St. You pass the sports club on the right and cross over the Montgomery spruit, a tributary of the Braamfontein spruit. You pass an Engen garage on the left and then you will see the bottle store and Wood ‘n Whotnots on the right. Between them is 9th St, and the new workshop is at the back of the yard with all the overspray.



Courtesy of Google Streetview, you can see the yard entrance is in the white wall, to the right of Wood ‘n Wotnots on the corner.



Regular Events:

Toymakers. The toymakers meet on the first and third Mondays of every month, at 09h00 till 12h00 at the new clubhouse in Albertskroon. Contact Eddie Marchio on 011-678-8062 or [rm22 AT mweb.co.za](mailto:rm22@web.co.za) for more information.

Wednesday Workshop. The Wednesday evening workshops are on the first and third Wednesdays of every month at the new clubhouse in Albertskroon, from 18h00 till 20h00. Contact Grant Mackay on 082-391-9769 or [mackay.grant AT gmail.com](mailto:mackay.grant@gmail.com) or [gmackay AT worldonline.co.za](mailto:gmackay@worldonline.co.za) for more information.

Saturday Workshop. Ken Bullivant holds a Saturday workshop at his house in Boksburg. The location is 13 Franklin Avenue, Comet, Boksburg on the first Saturday of the month from 09:00 to 12:00. They decide on an annual project and work throughout the year making it. Individual projects are discussed and problems solved. Ken also offers private lessons too. Contact Ken on 082 809 0020 if you wish to take part.

Saturday Turning workshop. Schalk van Niekerk conducts Saturday morning turning workshops at his premises in Germiston. (At the old East-African Timbers site) Membership is R400- per year, R30- per meeting. He can accommodate up to 12 people in a session with the lathes he has available for teaching. They meet on the 2nd and 3rd Saturdays of the month from 8h00 to 12h00. Contact Schalk on 082 443 4972 or schalk@onegoodturn.co.za or Johan Kramer on 083 251 0183.



Workshop Safety

Material sourced from the Woodworkers of America web site, thanks to Shaun for finding this.

As we all know, wood working can be inherently dangerous. Sharp tools designed to slice through hard woods, will make mincemeat of flesh and bone. If you ask around the club, many members will show you their scars, with some hair-raising stories. We want you continue to enjoy your woodworking, so we make no apologies for the safety messages in the newsletter and at meetings.

Statistics continue to show that the chief culprit for injuries in the wood-working shop is the table saw. However, when an accident happened it was very rare that the table saw was being used with all the guards in place and safe work practises in operation.

Unfortunately, the SawStop is not available on the local market in South Africa. It is also expensive. If the blade brake is triggered, then a new brake cartridge is needed, as well as a new blade. The SawStop is apparently a very good saw and it has all the proper safety equipment – a very usable guard and riving knife that is easier to remove and replace if needed for certain operations.

Two other saw manufacturers have announced flesh-detecting, blade-braking technology, including Bosch, so it is hoped that a similar saw will soon be available on the local market. Bosch claim that their design does not damage the blade.



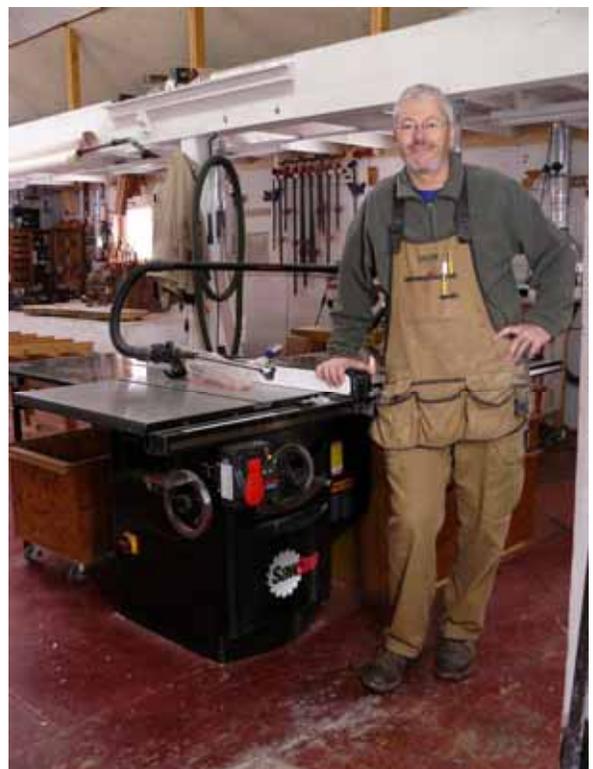
Why I Bought a SawStop

Posted by [David Munkittrick](#) from <http://www.wwgoa.com/article/why-i-bought-a-sawstop/>

I recently bought a SawStop tablesaw. (Is that the sound of applause I'm hearing?) On the one hand, it was an easy decision. Who wouldn't want the blade brake safety feature only SawStop offers. On the other hand, it wasn't a snap decision. In fact, years went by between the time I first used a SawStop and when I finally bought one.

I was lucky enough to have hands on experience with a SawStop Industrial saw at a previous job. Recently, I even had the opportunity to write a [complete review](#) about the SawStop Contractor's saw for WWGOA. I even performed the hot dog test myself. There was no doubt in my mind; this was the best table saw on the market and the blade brake was a game changer destined to carve out a big chunk of market share for SawStop.

In hind sight, it seemed like such a no-brainer, yet I hesitated for years. Those years of procrastination were a huge and unnecessary risk. It's my hope that my experience will help you cut through the issues and get yourself a saw that may one day save you from a life changing accident.



So, what took me so long? Leaving aside any explanation based on intelligence, there were several reasons:

For starters, I had a perfectly good tablesaw. It was a 1983 Delta / Rockwell Unisaw with a 52" Biesemeyer and an HTC Brett Guard. It was as safe as I could make it and I had it pretty well rigged up for dust collection. There was nothing to complain about regarding the saw's performance other than the fact that it was missing a proper riving knife. It cut wood just fine. That's what table saws are supposed to do. So why spend thousands on a tool that does the same thing? Especially when there are other tools I needed and didn't have. A SawStop would add no new dimension to my shop, but an oscillating edge sander sure would. I've had my eye on one of those machines for a long time. So now I had two voices in my head; one telling me about the safety of owning a SawStop, the other squawking about the cost for a tool that does nothing new.

I could see the benefit, but the cost seemed to loom larger. Since my cost/benefit analysis couldn't tip the scales, I moved on to a risk/rewards analysis.

The issue was simple; was the risk I took using my old saw worth the money I save by not buying a SawStop? Again, the two voices chimed in immediately. One asked what would be the cost of dismemberment. While the other would tell me that I've worked on table saws for over 30 years and the only accident of consequence resulted in a small scar on my thumb.

My cost/benefit analysis went nowhere.

Next step: I know, I'll ask my wife. She almost always frowns when I bring up spending money on new woodworking tools but the safety issue would add a whole new angle. She'd be the tie breaker between those two voices in my head and help me decide once and for all. I think I might have stacked the deck a bit when I showed her one of the SawStop ads with a guy holding up his hand graphically displaying a missing finger. Really, I just wanted to clarify the safety side of the equation. One look and she was on board. "You should get that saw." I dismissed her response as purely emotional.

So now I'm back to the cost/risk/benefit analysis and those two voices that won't stop arguing in my head.

Then came the straw(s) that broke the camels back. It was a one – two punch.

The first punch came when I heard about a friend's accident. Like me, he was sitting on 30+ years of woodworking experience when a kickback took off the tips of four fingers. That's when I knew I was going to buy a SawStop..soon. But despite my renewed determination, the weeks turned into months and I still hadn't bought the saw.

The second punch came in my own shop. My youngest son, Ben, now in his early 20's, had taken an interest in woodworking. As we worked together and he became more and more comfortable with the power tools, I decided it was time to let him use the table saw. I gave him my table saw 101 lecture, and supervised his first cuts. All went well until one day as Ben was ripping plywood panels I heard a bang and a thunk. I knew immediately it was a kick back. I'm not sure how it happened, but it did. The board being cut never left his hand but it was thrust back with enough force to yield a pretty colorful bruise on his stomach. It could have been much worse.

That was it. The next day I bought a SawStop Industrial. I have to say that I have absolutely no regrets other than having waited so long.

As of this writing, I have owned my SawStop for a year. The piece of mind this saw gives me is one thing, but SawStop is also a great saw on its own merits. The insert adjusts for height and width so there's no slop in the fit; the same zero-clearance insert is used for straight or 45-degree cuts; the fence is rock solid and glides like a dream; the over arm blade guard has built-in dust collection to capture the fugitive dust thrown off the blade; the miter gauge bar can be adjusted for a perfect fit and super accurate cuts (no need to buy an aftermarket gauge); in short, it's as good as a table saw can get.

So, if you're sitting on the fence about a SawStop, don't do what I did. My advice is to get off that fence and do what just about every school and commercial shop in the nation is doing; get a SawStop now. Any model will do. Trust me, you won't ever be sorry.