



# Crosscut

◀ *Made in Workshop* logo – see below.

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for back issues of *Crosscut*.

**No meetings are scheduled until further notice due to the national SARS-CoV-2 virus shutdown.**

**Please keep in touch via email and WhatsApp for developments.**

## News

### New Location for the Wits Woodworking Association

You may have seen Alistair's email on Monday, the 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2020, announcing the



move to new premises. This is an exciting development and promises to solve several issues that have been a concern in the club for some time. Our meeting venue and the workshop have been separate since 2015, when we moved the workshop from the house at the Living Link to Albertskroon. In the past we were able to use the workshop for talks and demonstrations, which allowed more hands-on show-and-tell. The workshop was somewhat removed from the meeting venue, which almost had the effect of splitting the club into two.

Some of you may remember a visit from Henry Levine to the club on the 9<sup>th</sup> January 2019, when he introduced us to his makerspace **Made in Workshop**. Henry planted some seeds with his enthusiastic talk on all the facilities. These were more biased towards metal working, but clearly this was an opportunity. After some months of work by the committee, an agreement has been reached. This process was delayed by the lockdown and **Made in Workshop** moving to new premises. This agreement will give the WWA members use of the premises and access to the facilities as explained in detail by Alistair in his email and the attached agreement. Visit <http://madeinworkshop.co.za/> for more information. When they resume after lockdown, all club activities will take place at the **Made in Workshop** premises. Most of the WWA members know where Hardware Centre is – **Made in Workshop** is just a few blocks to the West in Strydom Park. The picture at the top is from the MiW website and shows the wood shop.



In my personal opinion, this is a positive development for the club. Although the club has been thriving and had several vigorous and enthusiastic core groups of members, we were beset by some inexorable problems. We have an ageing membership and to sustain ourselves, we needed to attract more younger members. We prided ourselves in being able to offer access to a workshop for our members – we are the only club in South Africa that has these facilities to our knowledge. This is important for some members and

the core group centred around the Albertskroon workshop. The costs of maintaining the Albertskroon workshop were becoming an increasing burden on the club. Having the meetings separate from the workshop was leading to the club becoming fragmented, and communication between the groups was missing.

Makerspaces are a recent innovation in the world, and recognise that there are people who like to make things, but don't have access to a workshop. Makerspaces are multi-technology workshops, providing access to metalworking, woodworking, plastics, CAD/CAM, 3-D printers, etc. Although I love working in wood, I also enjoy metal work, tool-making, and many other areas too. I am sure that I am not alone, and I also think that we will be able attract younger members that wish to share our interests. I personally think this is an exciting development. Well done to the committee for the hard work to make this a reality!

Some people may not be familiar with the concept of a Makerspace, so I have reproduced some material from the internet at the end of the newsletter, to give you some more understanding of the principles and concepts.

Safety – in his talk Henry emphasised that safety is non-negotiable. In order to be allowed to use a machine, mandatory safety training is required, which is included in the fees for using the machine. We have had a good safety record at the WWA workshop, less so for individuals at home, so this is to be welcomed.

The hard work is not over yet – you will have seen Alistair's email on Wednesday, the 5<sup>th</sup> August 2020: We are moving on the 19<sup>th</sup> August 2020. Professional movers will handle all the heavy stuff. Most of the small stuff has been packed. This picture shows the last time we moved from house number 10 at the Living link to Albertskroon, in April 2015. Frans Joubert's son's truck will be pressed into service again.



### **GREAT OPPORTUNITY**

Greg Hirschson has opened a retail shop and is inviting members to sell their creations through the shop. Should you be interested please contact Greg on 083 450 8025 or [greg.capewindowsgroup@absamail.co.za](mailto:greg.capewindowsgroup@absamail.co.za) This is a truly great opportunity to earn extra cash! Greg has also suggested that you make a donation to WWA funds for every item sold.

### **MEMBERSHIP**

From Alistair's communication, you may have noticed that access to the new premises and the preferential rates at **Made in Workshop** are subject to being a paid-up member. This will be strictly enforced, so please, check that you have renewed for 2020/2021.

## Woodworking 101

The woodworking 101 group completed their bar stools. This picture shows Tanya, Tom and Gary with their completed stools. They started this project in February 2020. The stool on the right is the one Bobby completed, referred to below.

On the 5<sup>th</sup> September 2020, the Woodworking 101 group are scheduled to do a dovetail joint. Contact Bobby on at 083 873 3872 or [bobbymel109@gmail.com](mailto:bobbymel109@gmail.com) for more information.



### Regular Events:

**These have been suspended for the duration of the lockdown. Please monitor your emails for notice of when they will be resumed.**

## Members' Work

(Taken from Alistair's email newsletters.)

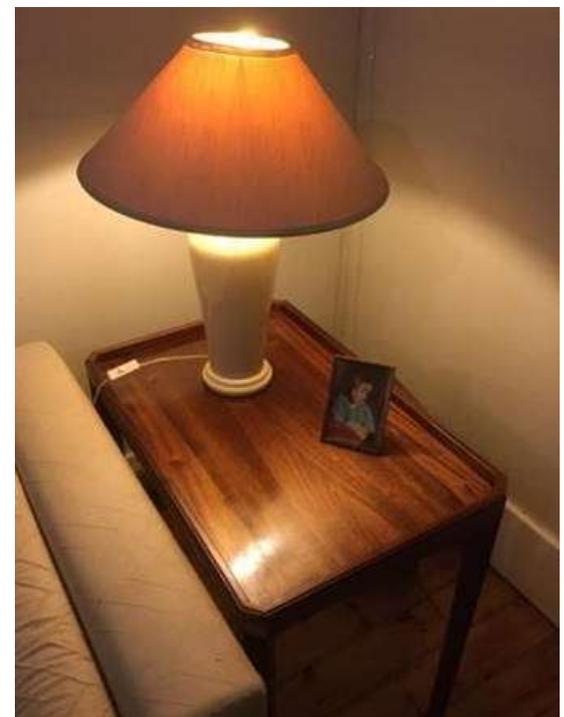
### Clive Stacey

“One of the two tables I have been making the last long while. Timber is mahogany. I think it is West Indian mahogany but the legs are sapele mahogany.

I also have a suspicion there are some dark red and really hard Meranti in the mix.

My intention is to put together a narrative of the process but I must take care to avoid a saga.

It will probably be presented in elements of the process.”



### John Franklin

“This is an "island unit" for the kitchen made to my wife's specification. It is constructed from saligna and finished with a reaction lacquer (Woodcote Pro) sprayed on. It was my first attempt at spraying and I am very pleased with the finish on the horizontal surfaces. I made the decision to spray finish very late into the project after the frame had been assembled and I ended up brush-applying the lacquer on the frame. In hindsight it would have been best to have sprayed the frame components before assembly.”

You can't go wrong if you follow the Bosses instructions!



**Herman Potgieter reports as follows:**

“My latest project began on just before my seventieth birthday when this rock arrived by courier. A combretum root ball from my brother, Frikkie. It was about 250x350 mm. After chopping out the big stone at the base, I was faced with having to discard the bottom 150mm which would have been a shame. So, preserving the stone hole dictated the final shape. During the turning, the rock-like appearance of structures hit me and i envisaged cliffs overhanging a river gorge. So, the piece became "Kransvoël ". Ek sukkel om n engelse naam te kry wat ook so lekker op die tong voel. Cliff Bird?”



Eugene has been busy making the case and door frames for his tool cabinet



Barry has been busy cutting drawer dovetails by hand



**Roy Gibbs reports as follows:**

“A Brown Ivory platter that I made many years ago. I wanted to fit handles but wasn't successful so it ended on the shelf. The challenge is to make the handles strong enough without being too clumpy. Decided to have another go and although first attempt was too weak, I think that I've just about got it right this time although I've already thought of an improvement.”



**A VERY CLOSE CALL!!!!**

**Herman Potgieter reports as follows:**

“The below photo is a good example of gross stupidity. The Velcro on my turners’ jacket was damaged by a too-hot iron but it still sort-of worked..... until it was snagged by my planer thicknesser which has a spiral cutting block. All those little sharp points greedily chewed into the cuff. Luckily, I was tightly pushing down on the irregular piece and this prevented my hold hand from being sucked in.



**Bobby’s Saturday Morning Woodworking101 class have finished their Barstool project. Bobby has donated his stool to the Albertskroon auction** ▶

**Angle grinder box – Trevor Pope**

I have had this small Bosch angle grinder since I started working, and it has lived in the cardboard box that it came in with an assortment of discs. ▶



I made a new box from clear pine and plywood. The lid slides into a rebate as shown below right. The pine sides are 10mm thick, joined with hand-cut dovetails and mitres top and bottom. The top and bottom are 6mm pine plywood, located in rebates cut with a Stanley #50 plane.

I stained the plywood top and bottom brown, which I found more appealing than the yellow pine. The box is finished with a water-based varnish (Armadek) to avoid darkening the wood.



The interior divisions are 5mm pine, dovetailed at the corners and rebated into the sides.



This picture shows the machine, tools and discs in the box.  
The bottom is lined with carpet offcuts. ►



### Gas hob cover – Trevor Pope

I previously showed pictures of the base for a two-burner gas hob, made from painted plywood with a saligna top.



Last month, I made a cover for the gas hob from poplar.

If you have worked with poplar, you will know that it can have reversing grain, so just pushing it through a planer/thicknesser can leave you with some ugly patches of reversing grain tearout. There are two ways of avoiding this – drum sanding and hand-planing.

I hand planed the surface with a finely set #4 smoother to avoid tearout. This left clear, transparent grain, with very little scraping and sanding required to finish off. Because poplar is relatively soft, I used Woodoc 10, so that I can refinish the surface without having to strip off the varnish in future. We'll see how it stands up to use.

## Makerspaces

Wikipedia defines makerspaces as:

A **hackerspace** (also referred to as a **hacklab**, **hackspace**, or **makerspace**) is a community-operated, often "not for profit" ([501\(c\)\(3\)](#) in the United States), [workspace](#) where people with common interests, such as [computers](#), [machining](#), [technology](#), [science](#), [digital art](#), or [electronic art](#), can [meet](#), [socialize](#), and [collaborate](#).<sup>[1]</sup> Hackerspaces are comparable to other community-operated spaces with similar aims and mechanisms such as [Fab Lab](#), [men's sheds](#), and commercial "for-profit" companies.

Wikipedia states that the first Hackerspaces were probably established in Germany in the 90's. The concept took off in the middle 2000's and there are many examples worldwide. There are different models for how these operate and how they are funded.

Funding can be particularly difficult, to make them sustainable. So, it is pleasing to note that **Made in Workshop** has just moved to larger premises, suggesting that the model that they are using has been successful.

Henry Levine has written some blog posts on the local makerspace movement on their website, that give some more background. (<https://madeinworkshop.co.za/2020/03/25/the-makerspace-movement-in-south-africa-2020-and-beyond/> )

To find out more on makerspaces, go to the Wikipedia page (<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hackerspace> ) and follow some of the many links.