

WHO ARE THE WOODWORKERS?

Woodworkers is a 100% Australian owned family company formed from the amalgamation of several older timber joineries and retailers including Drakes Joinery, Yandina Joinery, Sargoods Joinery, Beautwood, Sydney's World of Wood and the Gold Coast Door Shop. Our original Drakes joinery workshop at Moorooka is Brisbane's oldest surviving joinery in continuous operation since 1928. Many of the designs that are the hallmarks of the Queenslander architectural style were originally made in this workshop and the same techniques continue to be used today. It is Queensland's largest manufacturer of solid timber joinery with approximately 100 skilled trades people and staff in 5 factories in Australia. The company also operates supply chain factories in Indonesia and China that feed the Australian factories with stock and componentry. Woodworkers has showrooms in Brisbane, Sydney, Southport and Maroochydore. We also have distributors strategically positioned throughout Queensland, New South Wales & Western Australia.

ISN'T ALL SOLID TIMBER JOINERY THE SAME?

Most import joinery uses the term, 'solid timber' deceptively. It may be solid but is it one piece of timber? Engineered doors are actually laminated finger jointed timbers of mixed species covered with a thin face veneer. Woodworkers doors, unless specifically noted (i.e Vista / Fuseon), all use solid natural timber for all their structural components and purpose made cedar plywood for panel work.

IS ALL JOINERY AUSTRALIAN MADE?

No. Although we locally manufacture more joinery than anyone else, we also operate offshore factories to control our supply chain for both timber and manufactured items such as hardware. As 95% of all timber used in joinery is imported, Woodworkers complies with the World Bank guidelines for sustainable resource management and controls its timber supplies at source to ensure that 100% of every log gets used. It consequently prepares and dries timber off shore and recycles all offcuts into smaller manufactured items such as sashes, which it imports for Australian assembly. This unique system is not only environmentally responsible but also keeps the jobs in Australia and our prices low. Woodworkers also has the capability to supply custom made joinery offshore for larger projects - discussed separately on FAQ 25.

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN IMPORTED AND AUSTRALIAN JOINERY?

Virtually all doors retailed in Australia by groups like Bunnings, Doors Plus etc are fully imported. There are also importers who masquerade as auction suppliers who source their products in Vietnam, Indonesia and China. The Australian Standards make the entity that hangs the window or door responsible for its compliance, so import retailers limit their liability to the product rather than the collateral damage that leaking joinery can produce. Because Woodworkers has tested its joinery to AS2047 and is an accredited member of WADIC (Window and Door Industry Council) it fully warrants its product. Because of these responsibilities, Woodworkers uses Australian supervision to oversee its import products and ensures they are made to a higher standard than our competitors and to a quality equivalent to our local manufacture.



we're the original greenies!

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The Woodworkers' Company is an amalgamation of the oldest joinery businesses in Brisbane, the Gold and Sunshine Coasts. The patriarch of the group was Frank Drake, pictured above with the model 'T' in about 1934. Frank came from a pastoralist background in Duaringa, west of Rockhampton, and his joinery skills were entirely self taught.

In 1928 he built the factory still existing in Ipswich Road Moorooka and slept in a hammock in the back of the workshop for several years to save the money needed to buy his machinery and the Model 'T'. The truck was a common sight in Moorooka when tall gum trees still lined the unsealed Ipswich Road, and Frank successfully courted his wife to be, Edna Hope from its running board.

All of the original machinery is still in operation in the restored Moorooka factory and the Model 'T' was salvaged from Gunning in NSW in 1987. It's restoration was completed in 1995 and it was used in the film version of "The Thornbirds".

HOW DO WOODWORKERS COMPARE WITH OTHER AUSTRALIAN MANUFACTURERS?

Most Australian manufacturers are highly reputable and produce a reliable product to achieve compliance with Australian Standards. Most of the larger producers e.g. Stegbar, Trend, Hume & Corinthian manufacture or import engineered product and use mass production joint systems heavily reliant on adhesives for strength. Their product can fairly be said to be built to a price and life expectation defined in their warranty but not generally longer. On a smaller scale, there are a number of traditional joinery manufacturers that produce a quality product and to compare them you need to consider the following issues

Construction thickness & method

Woodworkers finish all their external doors at 40mm and use full mortise and tenon construction for all local manufacture. Dowel construction is used on some import product where suitable. All windows are also 40mm. Most other local manufacturers use 35mm door and window thickness as standard, which is difficult to fit mortise locks to and is more prone to warp. Approximately 25% more raw timber is used in 40mm joinery than 35mm (due to lumber sizing increments between 1½" and 2") making 40mm joinery better value and a more practical choice.

Sills

Woodworkers use Category 1 durability hardwoods for all exposed timber sills, generally Kwila or Merbau. They use proven traditional profiles for each application, usually machined from 175mm wide material up to 75mm thick. All sills should be oily, durable material to repel water and resist weathering but some manufacturers use porous timbers (like Cedar) which it is not suitable for sill applications.

Testing

All Woodworkers joinery has been wind tunnel tested to comply with AS2047. As the Building Code of Australia makes certification of compliance necessary for final building approval, it's important that a manufacturer is used who has undertaken the testing regime and certifies their product.

Design

Woodworkers has always been the leader in innovative design of timber joinery and boasts the visually strongest standard moulds and details in the industry. At Woodworkers it's the details that make all the difference and set us apart.



we remake history daily!

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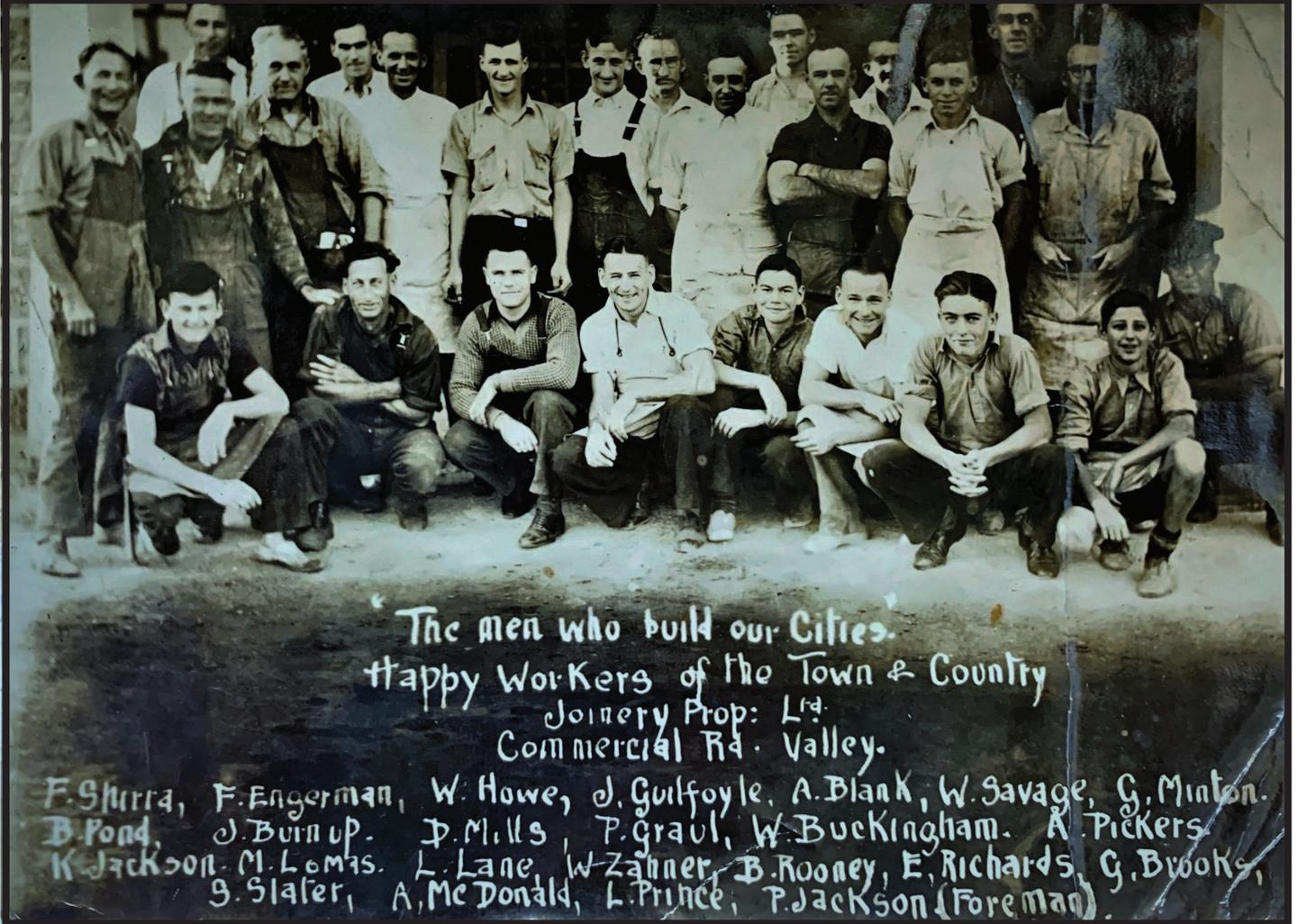
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THE ORIGINAL CREW



'Original photo of Town & Country Joinery staff taken in the 1930's. Some of the staff, including Percy Jackson, (far right), and his son Ken Jackson, (third from the right, back row), went on to manage the original Woodworkers Drakes factory for most of the decades from 1940 until 1986.'



Percy Jackson

Original foreman 1940 - 1948

The original Drake's Steam Joinery Works, the oldest surviving joinery in Brisbane, was established in 1928 by Frank Drake. Frank came from a pastoralist background and his joinery skills were largely self-taught. At age 28 he spent £145 buying the land and hand built the factory, which still exists to this day at Ipswich Road Moorooka. Frank slept on a hammock in the back corner of the factory for several years while slowly building his business and reputation.

Most of the cast iron machinery still in use in the original factory dates from this era, originally driven by long leather belts connected to a (still existing) ceiling drive shaft powered by a steam boiler situated under the workshop floor. Frank became engaged in 1927, and in 1930 he finally started construction on the house adjacent to the factory to settle his new bride. This original house (with alterations) is now the Brisbane joinery showroom.

The fledgling Drakes Joinery however was hammered by the economic depression of the 1930's and the outbreak of war in 1939. Frank Drake was forced to sell the premises to the more established Town & Country Joinery Company and turned to the land at Eidsvold where he died in 1960. Some of his tools remain on display in the Brisbane Showroom.

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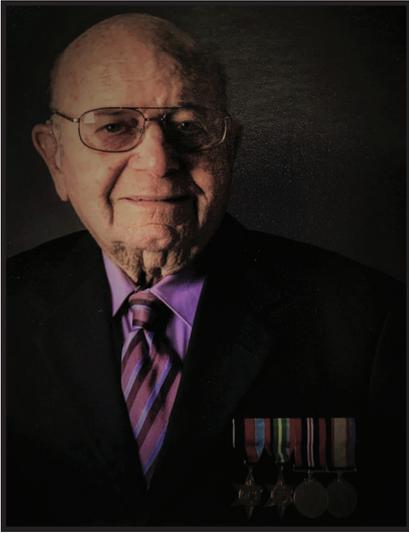


Ken Jackson

Foreman 1960 - 1986
Glazing under the original factory

The Town & Country Joinery Group was the major industry force of its day based in Commercial Road, Fortitude Valley. Because of its enviable reputation for fine workmanship, Drakes continued to operate as an independent workshop under the management of Town & County's head foreman Percy Jackson from 1940 to 1948.

The entire timber joinery industry fell on hard times from the 1950's however, due to the onslaught of cheap aluminium product, forcing Town & Country to close its doors in 1966. Drakes small size and versatility ensured its survival under the foremanship of Ken Jackson, son of the original manager, who operated it from 1960 to 1986. The business operated independently until 1997 when it merged to become The Woodworkers Company. The bulk of manufacturing relocated to newer premises at the rear of the old factory where it remains headquartered to the present day. The original factory continues its unbroken joinery manufacturing history however, but has been restored and preserved as befits Queensland's oldest surviving joinery.



Ken Jackson

Foreman 1960 - 1986
Taken on his 100th birthday



Ken with current manager John Coates tour the original workshop as part of Ken's 100th Birthday celebrations.



our original 1928 workshop still operates today

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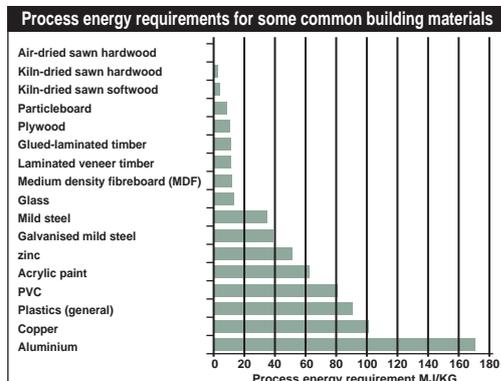
IS TIMBER MORE ENVIRONMENTALLY DESTRUCTIVE THAN ALUMINIUM?

It takes 5 times more energy to produce aluminium than wood. Aluminium production results in 8 times more air emissions and 300 times more water emissions than timber. Wood is one of the few natural building materials and is therefore not toxic, does not leach chemicals and is completely safe to handle and touch. As it ages it does so without breaking into environmentally damaging materials and is, in fact, naturally bio-degradable as landfill. In joinery situations there are ample examples of timber joinery continuing to function after 500 years with regular but minimal maintenance. Wood is the largest readily renewable natural resource and its reserves are INCREASING worldwide every year.

DOES HARVESTING TREES INCREASE THE GREENHOUSE EFFECT?

Timber contributes significantly less to the Greenhouse Effect than other building materials. Growing trees absorb CO₂ (the Greenhouse gas), locking the carbon in the wood structure and releasing oxygen into the environment. As trees mature the rate of CO₂ absorption declines and the intelligent harvesting of mature trees and replanting with young fast growing trees actually increases CO₂ absorption. The carbon stored and released by various building materials during their formation is summarized in the table:

Material	Carbon Released (kg per cubic metre)	Carbon Stored (kg per cubic meter)
Timber	15	250
Steel	5,320	0
Concrete	120	0
Aluminium	22,000	0



HOW DOES TIMBER COMPARE IN ENERGY EFFICIENCY, INSULATION & DURABILITY?

Easy to fabricate into virtually any shape or size, timber is a natural insulator and intrinsically strong, compared to metal windows that are natural heat conductors. Timber joinery gives natural energy efficiency and provides a long life. Wood doesn't rust or corrode and can therefore easily be rejuvenated whereas aluminium's powdercoat has a defined lifespan of between 10 and 20 years depending on site conditions. Joinery timbers such as cedar or rosewood are chosen because of their natural termite and rot resistance. Timber has the natural ability to reduce noise penetration and increase thermal efficiency. Advancements in coating technologies eliminate the need for high maintenance re-coating which was previously timber's Achilles heel. Recommended coating systems provide long life and simple maintenance and are the subject of a separate Woodworkers FAQs sheet. This development, coinciding with the current designer preference for stronger looking window sections have seen timber maintain a healthy 25% of national market share, with increasing market growth in Queensland and NSW. Timbers most visible and easily appreciated asset lies in its natural beauty and warmth. A house without timber is a home without soul and timber transcends fashion trends by never being out of style.

CAN ANY TIMBER BE USED FOR JOINERY?

NO. The ideal joinery timber grows straight out of the ground towards a light in the forest canopy so that its grain is straight and has minimal locked in stresses that can cause the timber to twist or bow. Trees grown in broken forest have wind pressures on them constantly, which stretch and compress the timber as they sway, making them unsuitable for precision joinery work. Traditionally, most Queensland joinery timbers have come from the tropical and sub-tropical regions in the state's north where straight growing conditions exist. Since settlement, Cedar was logged as first preference without being replanted, resulting in it becoming scarce by the end of World War 1. The preference then moved to virgin hoop and northern silky oak, supplies of which dwindled into the early 1980s when Australia locked most northern forests into the National Estate. Of the 960,000 million hectares of tropical rainforest estimated to have existed at the time of European settlement, 75% still exist. For the past 20 years most joinery timbers have been imported as a result of the poor forestry practices of earlier generations, where replanting and reforestation did not occur. These earlier sins have been belatedly but effectively addressed in the past 20 years, with Australia now being self-sufficient overall in timber having increased its plantations by almost 80,000 hectares per year, 42% of which are hardwood species. While these increasing timber stocks will suffice for most building purposes however, they are still too juvenile and unstable for use in precision timberwork like joinery.

CAN PLANTATION PINE BE USED?

Not successfully. It has been Woodworker's experience that plantation pine is very prone to warp & twist and needs to be chemically impregnated to give it any durability. We have serious health and safety concerns about using chemically impregnated timber as the past has shown that it can take a generation for its true effects to become known. Finger jointing pine can eliminate its internal stresses but does not produce an aesthetically acceptable product and we doubt its durability for external joinery.

WHERE DOES WOODWORKERS GET ITS TIMBER?

Woodworkers involves itself in the entire supply chain of its logs, buying them at source to ensure they originate from legal concessions where sustainable yield practices are enforced. We then have all sawmilling & drying done by our indigenous suppliers. Woodworkers seek to ensure that 100% of every log gets used and has instigated a recycling program to ensure this occurs. Consequently, while the best cuts of the log may be dressed and exported for Australian manufacture, the secondary off cuts are gathered for window and door component manufacture in the country of origin. Woodworkers has permanent expatriate supervision employed to ensure quality standards are met and that all material is used, even down to the very smallest chip being used as fuel to kiln dry the larger cuts. This integrated process is in accord with World Bank guidelines for value adding to the benefit of local communities. While we sometimes need to top up timber supplies from other Australian importers, we use only responsible companies that avoid illegal logging sources. Less than 250 full logs are used in the yearly production of Woodworkers joinery, creating employment for over 100 people in Australia and a similar number off shore. By sourcing from legal, sustainable managed concessions we believe the timber we use is being continuously re-grown in balance with our needs.



intelligent use of wood is good

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DOES WOODWORKERS USE CERTIFIED TIMBER?

The Australian Forest Certification Scheme (AFCS) is the official timber certification scheme in Australia which is part of the Geneva Based PEFC (Programme for Endorsement of Forest Certification schemes). PEFC is the largest forest certification system globally encompassing 230 million hectares of forest in 34 countries. PEFC aims to administer UN standards for Forest management to ensure sustainable timber harvesting in cooperation with national governments, business and landowners.

PEFC certified timber indicates that the timber has been harvested legally and sustainably and has been tracked from its place of origin to the market place to ensure it is not mixed with non-certified timber. Certification is largely an administrative system with a number of logistical hurdles which add to the cost of the product. Because of this many suppliers do not seek to have their product certified even though it comes from the same supply chain as the certified timber. Woodworkers seeks to increase the volumes of PEFC timber available (which are currently very limited) as well as Greenpeace certified tropical hardwoods which also appear irregularly in restricted quantities. At present it is not an achievable option to provide all joinery product from PEFC or other certified timber sources except for small projects. Consequently Woodworkers integrates certified timber in its daily production but cannot generally offer completely certified product until all of our supply chains become more green orientated. This remains a work in progress and a goal for the company which is likely to become a reality over the coming decade.



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