

On The Edge 2019 (the AGM edition)



Editor's Notes

Hi All.

Here is the 2019 On the Edge, I had hoped to publish a proper glossy magazine newsletter full of stories and photos of members work but sadly, despite repeated requests for submissions, there was not enough content to justify the printing expense – so an emailed PDF is the result. I'm still keen to make the magazine; I just need more stuff to put in it. If you would like to submit content or photos (I'm sure there's some amazing shots from Sharp by Coop out there now) email to editor@akg.org.au

This mini-newsletter is to satisfy our constitutional obligation to report to the membership the Minutes of the AGM held in May along with the Guild Financial Statement. I apologise for the delay in distributing these out to the membership but it was my intention to include them in the magazine but since I won't be publishing that soon I thought I'd put this out there.

Also I've included a note from our new Vice-President Andrew Blomfield regarding his idea to recognise higher standards for makers within the Guild. It's widely known that the peer-awarded MS stamp from the American Bladesmith Society is a powerful marketing tool that can be used to increase the value of your knives. Andrew would like to investigate something similar for the Guild.

Keep grinding everyone and I'll see a few of you at Knife Camp 2019.

Christian Mathieson

President's Notes.

The membership of the Guild is at an all time high. It is great to see new members joining and presenting their knives for assessment and review. This is a big step in improving the quality of your work. The State rep's feedback is invaluable to pick up those little things we miss in our craft. I encourage all those probationary members to start planning your blades for your full member assessment. Spend some time thinking about the project, rather than just grabbing any three knives sitting around. Stretch yourself in what you present, it will improve the quality of your overall making. Remember as Guild member other members are happy to help, advise and mentor you as you go on your knifemaking journey.

Speaking of improving, it is not too late to come to Knife Camp, there are still a few spots available. It is not just for beginner makers or probationary members; all members of the Guild could benefit from coming along. It's a great opportunity to share ideas, skills, re-fire your enthusiasm for knifemaking, and strengthen friendships. We would like to use it this year to have deeper discussions on ideas to enhance the Guild, like Andrew's proposal. Contact Christian if you want to come along.

Dues

A gentle reminder that membership fees are due by the end of the year. They will need to be paid to remain a financial member. Bruce will be sending out an email reminder in December.

Opportunities

The treasurer position is currently vacant. In the short term the committee will manage the responsibilities. We will need to vote in a new Treasurer at the next AGM. If anyone is interested, please contact your state rep or another committee member to discuss.

In May my term of President is up. After four years as President and several years before that as State rep, I won't be seeking re-election. It's time to give someone else a go, some new blood. Have a think if you would like to contribute. Or if you know someone in the Guild who would make a good President, encourage them to run for it.

Stay safe over the summer, especially those in bushfire prone areas.

Karim

Vice President's Notes

I have been asked by the Guild to head up a sub-committee to look into the Guild adopting standard levels to which members can aspire if they wish.

Most Guilds have levels. These are usually apprentice, journeyman and master.

The Australian Guild recently introduced testing for probationary members to become full members. This test was introduced so that new members could present their work to State reps who are only too willing to help with any problems they are having. Some of the people I approached when I joined the Guild have since become my mentors and have continued to help me with techniques and sort out problems.

My job as I see it is two fold, to form a sub-committee and to listen to and discuss suggestions from members as to the system they would like.

I have already had input from a few members with ideas;

1. That we follow the American system (Journeyman Smith and Master Smith)

The advantage of this system is that the criteria are fully developed. The disadvantages are its narrow focus (ie. Forged blades) and the AKG has very few judges.

2. That we introduce a two part system based on skill and service. The skill part could be covered by winning trophies at knife shows. The service part could be covered by service to the guild through committee or other work in management or shows.

For example:

Guildsman level 3, this could be just skills based.

Guildsman level 2, this could be skill and service based.

Guildsman level 1, this could be skill and service based, but higher standard than level 2 and maybe the presentation of an exemplary knife that photographs of which can be used in the promotion of the Guild.

3. That we introduce a system of Journeyman Knife Maker and Master Knife Maker based on skill, with criteria to be decided by the AKG.

I would like to hear from anyone who would like to serve on the sub-committee, and from members who have any more suggestions, or ideas about the suggestions presented above. It is important that we get this right. We don't want to divide knife making into competing groups. For example; fixed blade versus folders, hunters versus kitchen knives, stock removal versus forging, etc.

The basic principles of knife making apply to all knives. These principles are, fit for purpose, design, craftsmanship, skill, imagination and fit and finish.

I would like for members who wish to advance their skills to have structures in place that show the public, knife buyers and collectors that they are producing superior knives.

Any help that you can give me will be greatly appreciated. Contact me at

vicepresident@akg.org.au

Minutes for the Australian Knifemakers Guild AGM

**Best Western Airport Motel and Convention Centre
Attwood, Victoria
May 4th 2019.**

Meeting Opened at: 16:47

Present –

K.Haddad, S.Townsend, P.Del Raso, D.Timbs, S.Reynolds, A.Frankland, K.Slattery, Mall Hannan, S.McIntyre, I.Stewart, D.Jones, M.McVicar, N.Tanner, J.Rumble, T,Bockholt, R.Lambert, T.Parker, A.Parker, Z.Cheong, W.Morrison, A.Blomfield, S.Passey, B.Barnett C Mathieson

Apologies –

P.Bald, A.Fromholtz, K.Fludder, A.Bonavia, L.Haddad, T.Gerner, J.Weightman, M.Petersen

Last Years Minutes –

Read and presented as a true and accurate record of the 2018 AGM. Accepted by P. Del Raso, 2nd by S. McIntyre

Matters Arising from the 2018 Minutes – Nil

Committee Reports –

President's Report – Guild doing well. Better engagement of probationary members required. Thanks to all the volunteers.

Secretary Report – During the 2018 year the Guild gained 25 new Members, Numbers at Dec31 - 65 Full, 70 Probationary, 38 Associate, 7 Life, 2 Honorary, 2 Family and 3 Overseas Members. Melbourne Show ran well (569 Visitors, 143 Knives sold, 29 Tables). Submitted documents to Consumer Affairs for Association Requirements. Ran the first Guild Knife Camp at Tharwa to great reviews.

Treasurer Report – Documents supporting the report were circulated as a “true and fair” view of the Guild Financial Position as required by Consumer Affairs Victoria. (Financial Documents Attached Below)

Election of Office Bearers –

As per Section 6.12 of the Guild Constitution the offices of Vice President and Secretary were deemed vacant. The QLD state representative position had also become vacant.

Election of Vice President: Andrew Blomfield nominated by S.McIntyre, All in favour.

Election of Secretary: Bruce Barnett nominated, 2nd by D.Timbs. All in favour.

Election of QLD State Representative: Paul Arestan nominated, 2nd by A. Blomfield.

General Business –

Probationary members passed for Full Membership;

Chris Selleck from QLD – Recommended by D.Timbs. All in favour

Honorary memberships awarded to;

Fred Rowley: Moved P. Del Raso, 2nd S.McIntyre

Hardy Wangermann: Moved S.McIntyre, 2nd P. Del Raso

Michael Masion: Moved C.Mathieson, 2nd P. Del Raso

Newsletter Editor: Christian Mathieson nominated, 2nd D.Timbs. M.McVicar offered his assistance

Social Media Officer: C.Urquhart happy to continue, M.McVicar offered to assist

Melbourne Show Committee 2020: C.Urquhart(Chair), Z.Cheong, S.McIntyre, S.Passey, T.Bockholt

2020 Show dates confirmed as Sat May 2nd and Sun May 3rd (AGM on 2nd)

Knife Camp Committee: C.Mathieson, K.Haddad & I.Stewart.

To be repeated at Tharwa Valley, same weekend as Canberra Knife Show. Format to stay basically the same. SGM opportunity

Memorandum of Understanding to accompany the Constitution: Moved I.Stewart, 2nd C.Mathieson. C. Urquhart to supply draft for committee discussion.

Master Guildsman Concept: Moved by A.Blomfield, 2nd by C.Urquhart. For discussion by committee before 2020 AGM.

Insurance Restriction Concept: Suggestion by C.Urquhart for a survey/questionnaire to be sent to all probationary members before discussion by committee.

2020 show - More Autonomy for show committee: This was agreed.

Delete show rules from constitution: There is no need to do this.

Change Judging categories – small game to EDC: Show committee to decide

Non Financial Members: To be reminded that after 3 months they are deemed to have resigned therefore have lost all benefits including insurance through the Guild. A late payment fee of \$50 is payable upon renewal.

Meeting closed at: 1907pm

Profit and Loss

January - December 2018

	Total
INCOME	
Discounts given	4.10
Sales	171.00
Sales - Insurance	6,200.00
Sales - Knife Camp	3,150.00
Sales - Membership	8,590.00
Sales - Show	11,329.20
Uncategorised Income	250.00
Total Income	29,694.30
GROSS PROFIT	29,694.30
EXPENSES	
Accountancy	293.74
Advertising expenses	715.09
Expense - Knife Camp	4,428.68
Guild Newsletter Expense	145.20
Guild Show Expense	6,425.32
Insurance expenses	4,778.18
PayPal Fees	17.21
Printing, stationery & supplies	1,823.75
Secretary Expenses	1,616.61
Total Expenses	20,243.78
NET EARNINGS	A\$9,450.52

Balance Sheet

As of December 31, 2018

	Total
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Commonwealth	42,619.14
Paypal	759.57
Total Current Assets	43,378.71
Total Assets	A\$43,378.71
LIABILITIES AND SHAREHOLDER'S EQUITY	
Shareholders' equity:	
Net Income	9,450.52
Opening Balance Equity	15,830.74
Retained Earnings	18,097.45
Total shareholders' equity	43,378.71
Total liabilities and equity	43,378.71

Sales by Product/Service Summary

January - December 2018

	Quantity	Amount	Price
Guild Merchandise			
Donation	1.00	1.00	1.00
Guild Cap	6.00	150.00	25.00
Total Guild Merchandise		151.00	
Hammer In			
2018 Guild Hammer In - Balance Payment	3.00	450.00	150.00
2018 Guild Hammer In - Deposit	3.00	300.00	100.00
2018 Guild Hammer In - Full Rate	3.00	900.00	300.00
2018 Guild Hammer In - Probationary Rate	6.00	1,500.00	250.00
Total Hammer In		3,150.00	
Insurance			
2018 Insurance (up to \$100K)	4.00	800.00	200.00
2018 Insurance (up to \$50K)	13.00	1,300.00	100.00
2018 Insurance (up to \$20K)	81.00	4,050.00	50.00
2019 Insurance (up to \$20K)	1.00	50.00	50.00
Total Insurance		6,200.00	
Membership			
2018 Associate Membership	44.00	1,760.00	40.00
2018 Family Membership	2.00	100.00	50.00
2018 Knifemaker Membership	121.00	6,050.00	50.00
2018 Overseas Membership	2.00	80.00	40.00
2019 Knifemaker Membership	2.00	100.00	50.00
Probationary Member Assessment	21.00	630.00	30.00
Total Membership		8,720.00	
Sales	1.00	20.00	20.00
Show			
2018 Melbourne Show - Late Fee	1.00	50.00	50.00
2018 Melbourne Show Lunch	35.00	525.00	15.00
2018 Melbourne Show Table	25.00	3,500.00	140.00
2018 Melbourne Show Table - Non Member	4.00	920.00	230.00
Total Show		4,995.00	
TOTAL		A\$23,236.00	

Expenses by Supplier Summary

January - December 2018

	Total
Australian Knife Magazine	500.00
Banana Productions	1,078.00
Best Western Airport Motel & Convention Centre	4,465.00
Civic Insurance Brokers	4,778.18
Diamond Valley Trophy Centre	100.00
Machine Printing	681.56
Tharwa Valley Forge	3,800.00
Not Specified	4,971.04
TOTAL	A\$20,373.78