



## - AKG WINTER 2017 NEWSLETTER -

### SECRETARIES REPORT

By Christian Mathieson, *Guild Secretary*

Hi All,

It's been a week since the Sydney show and have been pretty much glued to the computer trying to square away all of the business that came up from attending. It was an absolutely amazing show and I feel blessed to have been able to represent the Guild up there. I've written a show report below if you didn't get to make it there yourself.



*Regarding Guild business:*

The Annual General Meeting was held on the 6th of May after the Melbourne Show shut up for the day, the minutes have been included below if you're interested to see what was discussed. The main points being the acceptance of the new standards document and the amendment of the constitution to reference the use of the document. We also had 9 probationary members voted in as full members, including yours truly (yay!). The financial report for the 2016 financial year is also included after the minutes.

In other news, the year is 2 thirds over and I'm still chasing people up for membership fees. I've got almost all of the knifemakers sorted but there's lots of associates that haven't stepped up yet. I am having a few emails and letters bounce back, so PLEASE if you change your email or residential address or phone number, drop me a line so I can update the database. Just a quick 1 line email to [secretary@akg.org.au](mailto:secretary@akg.org.au) is more than adequate.

The Guild is still growing – as of today, we have 175 members, made up of 4 Life Members, 54 Full Members, 64 Probationary Members, 49 Associate Members, 2 Honorary

Members, 1 Overseas and 1 Family (Junior) Member. Australia is a big place but we're finally starting to accumulate members in most areas so it must be time for a shed day. If you're thinking of holding one in your area be sure to get in touch with me so I can hook you up with your local Guild members.

For those of you that haven't seen it, Guild Member Mike Masion has published the all-new Australian Knife Magazine that premiered at the Sydney Show. It's a great magazine and fills the hole that was left many years ago after Keith Spencer wrapped up Knives Australia. It's filled with Australian specific knife content provided largely by Guild members AND for the bargain price of \$5 an issue – that's a pretty significant difference compared to buying a US based knife mag for \$15-\$20 IF you can find them at a news agent. Subscriptions for Mike's new mag can be found through iSubscribe, ebay and more info on Facebook.



I'm always up for a chat, I try to get in touch with all the Guild's members at some stage throughout the year- so if you have any questions or ideas about what you'd like to see the Guild's members at some stage throughout the year - so if you have any questions or ideas about what you'd like to see the Guild do, then feel free to give me a call or send me and email. ✂

Keep Grinding,  
*Christian*

## SYDNEY SHOW REPORT 2017

By Christian Mathieson, *Guild Secretary*

The Knife Art Association ran the Sydney Knife Show at Rosehill Gardens Raceway again on the 5th and 6th of August this year. They were generous enough to donate a table (to the value of \$370) to the Guild.

This being potentially the largest knife show the country has ever seen, we felt that the Guild MUST have a presence at the show, so they sent me up to man the table.

I turned up on Saturday morning to find that my table next to Kaoruko of Takefu Special Steel had been sniped by a gentleman selling Nepalese Kukuris. Andrew, the event coordinator, moved me to the far corner of the room directly opposite the demonstration workbench of engraving superstar Barry Lee Hands. Barry flew in from the US to promote his upcoming workshop with the Jewellery Institute of Australia. I couldn't have picked a better spot if I tried!



My role at the show was to answer questions about the guild and the application process, including our new standards document, as well as signing up new members and selling raffle tickets for the Melbourne show raffle. I also managed to help out a number of members who were there without support staff by minding their tables while they ran off to pee or get lunch.

The show certainly was the biggest I have ever seen and I'd be inclined to think it was the largest dedicated knife show that Australia has ever seen: 103 Tables with 62 Custom Makers (including 45 Guild Members). The rest was made up of factory made knives, knife retailers and a significant number of knife related industries such as Gameco, 84 Engineering, Radius Master, Fire Pants Fabrication, The Timber Joint, Turning Timbers and Aussie Burls International.

You can be sure that I dropped quite a few hints around to the non-guild makers that they should consider joining. Saturday morning saw a queue forming up outside the door before opening while the award judging was happening. Steve Filicietti showed the knife world that he's definitely back in the swing of things by taking out Best Art Knife, Best Damascus Knife, Best Forged Knife and Best in Show. But Guild members were well represented with Best Utility won by Kev Slattery, Best Hunting Knife by Brett Selley, Best Folding Knife by Ali Bastian, Best New Maker was Ian Stewart. After extensive testing by celebrity chefs, the hotly contested Best Kitchen Knife was taken out by non-member Mert Tansu (the prize was a metre long piece of Damasteel!) with probationary members Tobi Bockholt and Kevin Room taking out 2nd and 3rd place respectively.

The Guild sponsored the Encouragement Award, which was judged by Knife Art Association members and myself on Sunday and it was awarded to one of our newer guild members, Dylan Jones. That left one award remaining, Best Factory Made Knife and it was taken out by a Todd Begg Bodega from Cutting Edge Knives.

A massive congratulations to all Guild members who won awards, the quality (and volume) of knives there was impressive. The venue filled quickly once the doors opened and the "vibe" of the show was very different from the previous year. Last year there were a lot of people shocked by the prices of custom knives (when you can get a whole block of Global knives for \$399). People were there to buy knives this year, they were asking intelligent and informed questions and happy to pay for custom pieces. Kitchen knives were clearly the favorites of the majority and those who had a range reported good sales. Our youngest member Tim Ford (who signed up the week before the show) sold 9 of his Japanese styled forged knives, a great result – he couldn't wipe the smile off his face. I had a few knives from Guild members at the table as examples of members work and I had a lady so enamored with one of Kev's knives that I sent her down to Kev's table to pay for it.

Of Course there were some of the classic knife show patron comments like "that's not a knife" and "did you make that? all of it?" apparently Leila Haddad got one of the best when a patron told her that she had left a texta mark down the spine of her blade (it was actually the etched core of her san-mai steel).

Sunday sales felt a little slower but the venue was still busy with people shoulder to shoulder at every table. Voices that were strained after Saturday were clearly struggling on Sunday. Late in the afternoon it was still busy enough to keep makers firmly fixed at their tables instead of the traditional floating about to see how the others had fared.

As I was saying goodbye to Barry Lee Hands on Sunday afternoon he mentioned that he had just bought Andrew Blomfield's quillion dagger from last year and had placed an order for more of them, so a massive congratulations to Andrew for making a sale to an individual that regularly collaborates with some of the worlds best knifemakers.



All told, I think it was an absolutely amazing show and the organizers need to be congratulated on their achievement. Guild members should strongly consider making the effort to exhibit or at least, attend the next one. The official figures came in at 2789 patrons (Sat: 1586, Sun: 1203) with 484 Custom Knives sold (that's an average of almost 8 knives per maker). ✕

## MELBOURNE SHOW REPORT 2017

By Matt Blackie, *Blackie Blades*

So the annual 2017 AKG Melbourne Knife show has come and gone for another year. This year however was one to be remembered with a massive influx of people. A record attendance of 516 visitors came through the doors over the course of a nice sunny weekend.

We had a whole crew of interstate makers make the journey, with a strong showing from the Tharwa Valley region of Canberra.

We had 28 high quality vendors covering all types of knifemaking and associated supplies and equipment. All up resulting in 132 handmade custom knives being sold. Which is roughly 1 knife sold to every 4th patron.



The crowd at the show was from all walks of life and quite a varied age group. Plenty of parents brought along their kids which is also a good sign. 9 probationary

members were voted in at the AGM. With a full list of the names contained within the minutes which are included in this edition of the newsletter.

## 25TH ANNUAL ADELAIDE KNIFE SHOW 2017

4TH & 5TH NOVEMBER 2017 (SEE AD PAGE 5)

By Peter Bald, *South Australian Representative*

I am writing to you to offer the opportunity to come to Adelaide in October/November and participate in the 25th Annual Adelaide Knife Show at the Arkaba Hotel - Motel, 150 Glen Osmond Road, Fullarton, South Australia.

The Arkaba is a well known and highly rated hotel/motel/function centre. It has a number of restaurants, bars and entertainment areas and caters for all of our needs during the weekend.

The knife show will be open between the hours of 9am and 5pm on Saturday 4th November and 10am and 4pm on Sunday 5th November. If you require accommodation, the Arkaba offers a range of options (see registration form).

'Set up time' on Saturday morning begins at 7.30am!

Judging of knife awards will occur between 8.00am and 9.00am.

Awards will be presented for the best knife in the following categories: **Utility - Folder - Hand forged blade (incl. damascus) - Hunter - Art Knife.**

Table may be reserved at a cost of \$150 per table.

Please note that there is an absolute maximum of 30 tables available for exhibitors. If you require more than one table then this can only be done by phoning me to confirm availability.

**Knife Laws:** on the registration form you will see that you are required to acknowledge that you are aware of and



A noticeable percentage of the crowd was an influx of new makers or people interested in learning the skills of knifemaking. Noticeable by the lineup to the Gameco booth all weekend.

Which as always was fully stocked with a bunch of great equipment and supplies. Plenty of knifemakers had been asked about tuition in their area for knifemaking.

So the show this year was a success and with the influx of new makers I see the show in 2018 being even bigger and better! Thanks to everyone who helped out at the show or had a hand in organising it!

Stay Safe, Stay Sharp. ✂

Matt Blackie

understand the law in South Australia related to prohibited weapons. I suggest that you access Summary Offences (Weapons)

**REGULATIONS 2016:**

<https://www.legislation.sa.gov.au/LZ/C/R/SUMMARY%20OFFENCES%20REGULATIONS%202016/CURRENT/2016.169.UN.PDF>

If this is not possible I will send you the information for a nominal cost to cover printing and postage.

My fundamental advice is no 'Fighting Knives' which includes daggers, no 'automatic' knives, no throwing knives or concealable knives. If you are an 'exempt' person and deal in these items, ensure that you have all of the appropriate documentation. Failure to comply with this request could result in forfeiting your place at the knife show without compensation. We are always visited by the police during the weekend of the knife show, we must be vigilant in ensuring that we follow the rules!

**REGISTRATION** The registration form must be signed and returned to me! This can be done as a hard copy or electronically. If your payment is done by direct deposit please ensure that you identify your transaction when using this facility. ✂

Yours sincerely,

Peter Bald

**Adelaide Knife Promotions**

6 Canberra Drive, Aberfoyle Park, S. Aust., 5159

Ph (08)82703094 | 0417 848511 | e: pbald@ozemail.com.au

# SOUTH AUSTRALIAN KNIFE MAKING CLASSES

Knife making classes have now begun in South Australia! A workshop has been set up in the Northern Suburb of Edinburgh to accommodate the needs of people wishing to learn how to make a knife. Both stock removal and forging classes are available and are essentially being coordinated



through "Old school leather and steel works". This group of three knife makers; Rian Doudle, Garrie Mitton and Stan Chwesiuk have worked tirelessly to get the workshop set up to cover the needs of would be knife makers.

At this stage there have been two 'meet and greet' sessions to spread the word and establish what the level of interest will be and also one stock removal knife making class run by Peter Bald.

As time goes by there will be visiting blade smiths from interstate running classes on forging and making Damascus. Rian has been assured that at least three well known smiths have agreed to participate.

Garrie Mitton assisted by Stan Cwesiuk will be teaching engraving using traditional and advanced techniques and Daniel Ford, a professional leather worker, will run classes on sheath making and associated leather working.

Rian can be contacted on 0439 285 608 for bookings related to knifemaking and Garrie on 0417 082 221 for info about engraving.

Check out the Old School – Leather and Steelworks Facebook page. ✕

Cheers,

*Peter Bald*

**South Australian State Representative**

## MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Opened at 4:59pm.

**Present** – K. Haddad (President), S. Townsend (Vice President), C. Mathieson (Secretary) P. Bald (SA Rep), B. Barnett (WA Rep), P. DelRaso (Vic Rep) K. Slattery (NSW Rep) W. Bidgood, M. Blackie, A. Blomfield, Z. Cheong, , A. Frankland, A. Fromholtz, , L. Haddad, M. Hannan, C. Maher, M. Mason, M. Marshall, S. McIntyre, A. Parker, T. Parker, A. Phillips, S. Reynolds, J. Rumble, N. Sharp, G. Siemer, G. Simpson, G. Tapp, C. Urquhart, J. Weightman.

**Apologies** – A. Bastion, T. Gerner, R. Herbert, W. Morrison, M. Peterson, D. Timbs.

**Last Years' Minutes** – Read by President Haddad and presented as a true and accurate record.

*(Moved for acceptance: B.Barnett, Seconded: P.DelRaso)*

## MATTERS ARISING

President Haddad talked about the new changes to the insurance premium structure to protect makers from being underinsured by offering 3 premium levels that coincide with greater incomes from knifemaking he also expressed a need to keep the enough money in the Guild's bank account to absorb any unexpected price rises in the future.

S. McIntyre spoke about the evolution and purpose of the New Standards Document Assessment Checklist for Probationary and Full Membership. Discussion was had on minor improvements. The scoring system was clarified so that an average score over the 3 knives needs to pass, not each knife individually. Concerns were raised about what the guild would do if someone failed their probationary membership and how this affects our insurance.

The resolution to amend By-Law #3 of the Guild Constitution to include reference to the Document Assessment Checklist for Probationary and Full Membership was read out.

*(Moved for acceptance: S.McIntyre, Seconded P.DelRaso - All in Favor.)*

## REPORTS

### PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Haddad spoke of the Strong Position the Guild is currently in with it's large membership. He attributed this to the interest in handmade knives and the insurance that the Guild offers. He reminded members that it is "Your Guild" and urged them to put in effort to meet up and collaborate. He spoke about the need to engage the new probationary members if we hope to keep them. President Haddad then discussed the rise of multiple other organisations emerging in other states and considered what was motivating them and why is it not the guild running those gatherings.

### SECRETARY'S REPORT

Secretary Mathieson spoke of the Guild adopting the Quickbooks accounting platform and how that is affecting the administration of the Guild. He also spoke about attending the Sydney show in August 2016 to man a Guild info Table and to hold a Special General Meeting of the Guild. He then read the minutes of the SGM to those present.

The secretary then presented a breakdown of the current membership.

158 members, (4 Life, 54 Full, 59 Probationary, 39 Associate, 2 Honorary)

40 new since last show (31 probies)

Old members returning; Keith Fludder, Gary Siemer, John Foxwell

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

The Treasurer's report (attached) was prepared by Secretary Mathieson and circulated to those present. The summary below was presented.

Summary: 1st July 2016 - 5th May 2017

Income \$17975.00

Deductions \$13110.70

Net Earnings \$ 4865.59

Bank Balance (as at 5/5/17) \$ 18461.46 (CBA - \$ 13827 PP- \$ 4634.46)

*(Moved for acceptance: P. DelRaso, Seconded: K. Slattery)*

**GENERAL BUSINESS**

**Probationary members nominated for their Full Membership:**

Karim Haddad Fabian Kreilaus, Garry Thom

Kevin Slattery (NSW): Corin Urquhart, Andrew Blomfield, Scott Reynolds, Craig Maher, Ian Stewart

Peter Del Raso (VIC): Christian Mathieson, Matt Blackie

*All probationary members nominated were accepted for full membership.*

**Honorary membership for:**

Mike Masion (Moved: K. Slattery, Seconded: C. Urquhart)  
All present in Favor.

Fred Rowley (Moved: P. DelRaso, Seconded: P. Bald) All present in Favor.

**ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS**

Vice President... S. Townsend (Nominated: S. Townsend, Moved: S. McIntyre) All present in Favor.

Treasurer... C. Maher (Nominated: C. Maher, Moved: M.Blackie) All present in Favor.

State Representatives... NT Rep - G. Siemer (Nominated: G.Siemer, Moved: P. Bald) All present in Favor.

Editor... M.Blackie (Nominated: M. Blackie, Moved: S. McIntyre) All present in Favor.

Show Committee 2017... M.Masion, Z.Cheong, P.DelRaso, C.Urquhart, M.Blackie

Public Officer... A. Parker

Social Media... A. Phillips

Discussion was had regarding the 2018 show.

P. DelRaso suggested raising the table cost to \$200 and the money to go towards advertising.

S. McIntyre requested the inclusion of a Kitchen Knife Award.

M. Masion requested rewording the Folder Award definition.

K. Haddad suggested a feedback survey from participants with results to be forwarded to the show committee.

**Meeting closed at 6:36pm. ✕**

**ADELAIDE KNIFE SHOW**  
4th & 5th Nov 2017

*25th Annual*

**SHOW HOURS**  
Saturday 9 - 5pm  
Sunday 10 - 4pm

**ADMISSION.... \$10**  
(under 12 free with adult)

*3 hand made knives will be raffled!*

**Arkaba HOTEL . MOTEL**  
150 Glen Osmond Road  
Fullarton, South Australia

**Australian Hand-Made knives**  
Collectables, working knives, folding knives, forged knives, damascus knives, etc  
Food and refreshments available.

For further information call 0417 848511

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