

# THE CUTTING EDGE

*A periodic magazine that celebrates the activities of the Shed and its members*

Volume 1 No. 16

Hornsby Woodworking Men's Shed

Winter 2018

## The Dural Bunnings BBQ 24 June

It was only 5 degrees when the marquee was set up in the Dural Bunnings' carpark, opposite the main entrance. Business was very quiet until late morning and, even then, the day's takings were disappointing. That store is well advanced with extensive extensions, including another entrance via the nursery.

It is our contention that Saturdays are better than Sundays due to people with weekend projects maximising their time.

Never the less, the volunteers had a good time, meeting people and talking about woodworking and the Shed's activities.





The Secretary, David Tarran, reported that the gross takings were \$946 and estimated expenses were \$300, leaving a surplus of \$646.

The next and last Bunnings BBQ for 2018 will be at Thornleigh. We are targeting a date late in the year, to take advantage of the busy Christmas season.

# Cheque This Out – Westfield Hornsby Local Heroes Award

Bruce Campbell tells the story:

“In early June member Jim Swain heard about the Westfield Local Heroes promotion and mentioned it to David Tarran. Each Westfield centre had \$30,000 to donate (three nominees would each receive



\$10,000) to community organizations who nominated a member as a Local Hero. David Tarran quickly fired in an application and nominated me (not sure why me). By the end of June there were twenty-one nominations received and Westfield selected six finalists that best fitted the nominated criteria. and I was one of the six. Public voting then began and ran until 13 July. The following week I was contacted by a Mr Chris Zerial the Westfield Centre Manager to say that the Men’s Shed was in the final three and would receive a \$10,000 grant. The other two winners were:

Sallianne McClelland from the Hornsby Ku-ring-gai Women’s Shelter and Catherine Treay of the Clarke Road Special School. However, it was made absolutely clear to me that I was not to release this information to anybody except my nominator until after Monday 13 August when Westfield publicly announce the winners. On that date, I have to attend a promotional Breakfast at 7am (so that Westfield can get some advertising value for their Money). Whilst nursing my secret for the last three weeks I have been twice to Hornsby for promotional photography, one has to jump through a few hoops to get \$10,000 for the Shed, it has been an interesting exercise.”



I understand that the online voting for Bruce was successful due to a well-orchestrated campaign by certain Shed members.

Bruce, his wife Marelyn, David Tarran and myself attended the presentation to support the Shed and record the event photographically.

Following a photo session organised by Hornsby Westfield Centre Management and the presentation of an enormous mock cheque for \$10,000, everyone headed off to a nearby restaurant for a lavish breakfast.



# Shed Woodturning Demonstration by Chris Pouncy

The following article was written for the local newspaper, The Bush Telegraph and appeared in the 4 July edition. I have added more photos, kindly taken by David Tarran, for this version.

The Shed hosted a special woodturning event, sponsored by Carbatec, on Friday 22 June.

It was a presentation by Chris Pouncy, the renowned English Woodturner. It was a great opportunity to see a Master Craftsman demonstrate Woodturning for over two hours. His publicity declares: “There is a reason why Woodturner Chris Pouncy tours Australia every year! Put simply, it’s because Chris, a true rock star of the wood world, delivers compelling demonstrations packed with info and entertaining patter. He is sponsored by the Robert Sorby Tool Company so its tools are featured, however attendees keep returning because they love the expertise that Chris in turn loves to share.” This included sharpening, basic bowl turning and hollowing, along with special tool and decorative techniques. Chris showed attendees how to select the right tools for the job and how to get them to work the way they’re supposed to. Troubleshooting tips were popular and the session included time for attendees to ask questions.



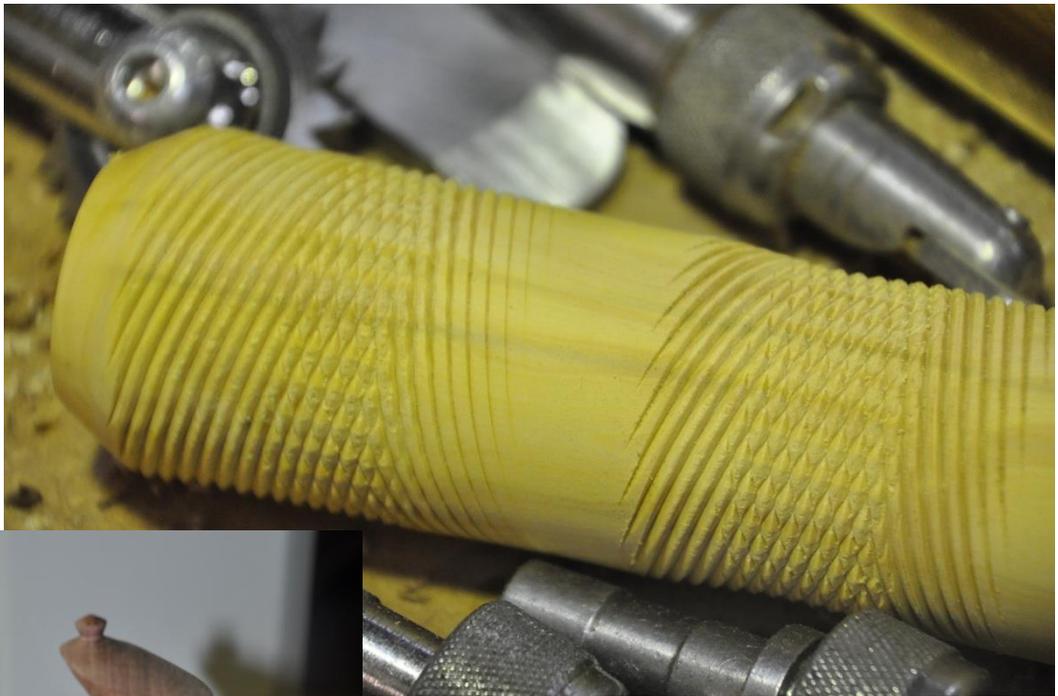
Forty people attended the event; including one from New Zealand. Audience viewing was facilitated by using a camera linked to a computer screen.

Hornsby Woodworking Men’s Shed holds a specialist Woodturning workshop every Thursday and general

woodworking workshops every Monday, Tuesday, Friday and Saturday. We have a fully equipped workshop, resulting from our 17 years’ of helping people improve their woodworking skills. Men, Women and youths of high school age and over are welcome to join us. For more information, go to our Website



[hornsbymensshed.org.au](http://hornsbymensshed.org.au)



## Our Street Library Re-visited

On Sunday 5 August, I received a message from Koran, the lady that we built the street library for (see edition #15 of the magazine), saying that she had been contacted by the local press and Hornsby Council about a viewing of the library the following day. Naturally, I was keen to be there to promote the Shed and record the event as part of our history. Peter Whitten was also able to come, as he lives locally.



The Hornsby Advocate declined but Mayor Philip Ruddock, Councillors Janelle McIntosh and Nathan Tilbury were there, together with a Council photographer, Koran and all five children. Koran was very complimentary about the Shed's involvement in the success of the library that had already fulfilled its purpose of engaging with the local community. The Mayor and Councillors are very supportive of street libraries, having ordered ten from the Shed. They then posed for photos that will be part of articles both on the HSC Website and a Hornsby newspaper.



Clr Nathan Tilbury



Mayor Philip Ruddock and Clr Janelle McIntosh



# Making a Digital Record of a German WW1

## French Sector Map

In mid-June, Ron Koutchavlis asked me to photograph an old map from the First World War before giving it to the local RSL. I did the best I could, laying it out on one of the SES upstairs tables and using natural light from the window. The map was well creased where it had been folded, for close to 100 years. I had to stand right over it to try and get it square to the camera sensor. Despite having to apply post processing to improve the contrast, I managed to retain its character and definition so that place names can be read at a reasonable magnification on a computer screen. I have attached some to this article, see next page.

I asked Ron about its history and learned that it belonged to fellow member, Phil Bailey. This is his story.

The map emanated from my Family History research. I was given some artefacts from the Estate of Victor Stewart, who was married my wife's grandmother's sister. They had no children. They included many family photographs, some Military Badges and Uniform Buttons and a German Sector Map. They had resided in our cellar, untouched for nearly twenty years. Recently unearthed, we realised that our family had little interest so it was decided to donate it all to the Hornsby RSL Sub-branch. They have since indicated that they do not have the resources to restore the map nor the space to display it so have offered it to the National War Museum who indicated its intention to restore and display it.

I know little about the background of the events prior to the map coming into my hands. The handwritten note on the article states that it was captured from the Germans at Warfussa (Lamotte - Warfusee) on the 8<sup>th</sup> of August 1918. That was the first day of the Battle of Amiens, the crucial Allied breakthrough counter-offensive. An unprecedented advance (about 12 kilometres by early afternoon of the first day) led to vast numbers of German prisoners.

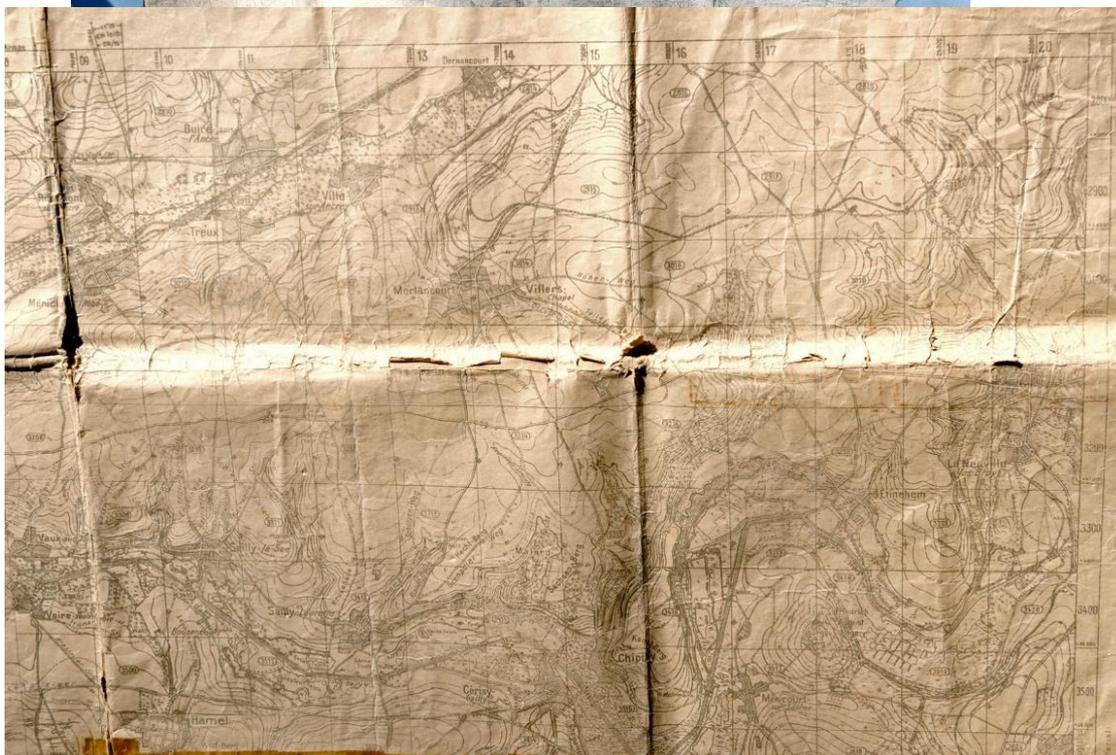
This was the same day that 3659A Private Frederick Victor Beresford Stewart (Vic Stewart), a member of the 31<sup>st</sup> Battalion, was severely wounded. I think we can assume that his fellow soldiers, knowing he would be repatriated to England gave him the captured Sector Map.

After convalescing in England, he returned to Australia in March 1919 where he was discharged.

Vic was born in Warwick Qld in 1897. He returned there briefly after the war before settling in Sydney where he married in 1929. He Joined the Federal Police where he rose to a senior rank. No detail is known other than his role in the 1954 Petrov affair. Following Petrov's defection, his wife Evdokia was "escorted" by KGB officers on to a plane leaving Australia. Radio contact was made with the plane where it was established that she was not leaving willingly. The plane just happened to develop mechanical problems and was diverted to Darwin. The ensuing delay enabled a team of Federal Police headed by Vic Stewart to catch up and "rescue" her from the Russians.

*Phillip Bailey*

I made three copies on CDs; one for Ron, one for Phil and the other for the RSL.



## In the Frame – Peter Whitten

In his working life, Peter found his “true calling – working with wood.” He specialised in building the polished timber joinery, found in many old English pubs. Later, he worked as a carpenter and in related building trades. After emigrating to Australia and eventually retiring, he found he needed an additional interest, beyond working around the house, that’s when he found the Shed and soon became involved in its activities. His expertise in constructing picture frames was put to practical use when he helped satisfy an order for a number of specialised frames.

In the true spirit of the Shed, Peter has offered to share those skills with other members by holding framing classes every Thursday from 10am to 2pm, subject to sufficient numbers. Peter can be contacted via email [peter.w.w@bigpond.com](mailto:peter.w.w@bigpond.com)

If a project would be improved by having a sprayed finish, Peter can help there too. He can often be found in the spray booth at the end of a workshop, keeping the fumes away from his fellow woodworkers.

*Unfortunately, after writing this article, Peter’s health has declined. He hopes to recommence classes subject to his physical capabilities.*



# In and Around the Shed





# Don't Get Scammed

I recently read in a local newspaper about a fifty-year-old being scammed out of \$5,000 by someone from the “Telstra Technical Department”. It’s a lot of money and unfortunately, I am hearing about more people being scammed. The “Telstra Technical Department” ring me about two or three times every week. I find this quite amusing as they eventually realise that I understand exactly what they are trying to do and they quickly hang up.



My advice is to not engage with these people and politely and quickly hang-up. I don't know the organisations making these calls but they can't be doing it for charitable reasons. They know that computers confuse some people and are easily led into handing over their personal details and money. Swearing at them might make you feel better but why risk being called back at 3am by someone who only wants to cause you pain and inconvenience.

So why do I engage with them? Two reasons:

- 1) I like to understand how they scam people so I can warn others, and
- 2) the more time they spend with me, the less time they have to scam others.

The methods they use are quite straightforward and they use the inexpensive Voice over Internet Protocol (VOIP) to basically call throughout the world for little or no cost. If you have a phone system capable of showing the Caller Id, you will see a range of numbers from various Australian capital cities, Australian mobiles, and lately numbers where Caller Id has been blocked. VOIP uses computer networking technology and typically has a two to three second delay before connecting to your phone line. This is the first tell-tale sign that you are being called by VOIP and from overseas. Get ready to hang up.

More people are being made aware of these “simple” scams through the media and word of mouth. The scammers are becoming smarter and employing techniques such as “Phishing emails” and “Social Engineering”. I get many “phishing” emails purporting to be from major organisations such as the ATO, AGL, Banks, and recently from Apple. Several years ago, the grammar and spelling were very poor and it was easy to pick a fake. But now, the quality has improved and they also use the legitimate logos and text from the organisations. Checking for a fake is much more difficult but typically the emails have a common theme of urgency – if you don't reply or make a payment within a short period of time, say 24 hours, then some service will be stopped. Or you will be fined a large amount of money. Also, look closely at the sending email address as it won't be something like “agl.com.au” – extra characters or names will be added. Organisations like AGL will not use this “urgency” strategy and will typically ask for a payment three to four weeks before it is due. If you are not sure then just ring them up and ask for clarification. But make sure you check the White Pages for the correct number and not use any phone numbers in the email.

Often these “phishing” emails will have an “Unsubscribe” link at the end. Please do not hit this link - just delete the email. Hitting the link just confirms that they have found a valid email address and this will result in further emails. NB. “Phishing” is a word play on “Fishing” and relates to an attempt to steal your personal details through deception.

Social engineering is the process of collecting personal information in order to commit fraud. Ten years ago, two pieces of information organisations like banks might ask you to provide for security checking purposes were your Date of Birth (DOB) and your mother's maiden name. Unfortunately, for some people, these can be easily found on social media such as Facebook. Just last week, I was helping someone delete their Yahoo email account as it was getting many Spam emails (Yahoo have suffered two major security break-ins in the past five years). Inside their email account profile was their birthday and I couldn't change or delete it. I don't give my DOB to any organisation with the obvious exceptions of Medicare, ATO or Life Insurance companies, etc. Why does an email provider need my DOB? If forced to enter a DOB for a non-critical reason, I will enter a fake one. Social engineering collections may also happen over a long period of time, for example, years. Why do I get calls from Filipino callers from "St Leonards" telling me about government solar panel rebates? "Do you have solar panels?" "Do you rent or own?" "Do you have a Mortgage?" "Full time, part time, or retired?" "What is your salary range?" It is all aimed at collecting information about you and slowly completing your "jigsaw puzzle". I recently heard of someone contacted by "Telstra" who was told their daughter had reported a problem for them, and this was the return call to fix the problem. "Telstra" had used their daughter's correct married name, and the person let their guard down and gave "Telstra" access to their computer. It appeared so innocent and correct but this was the start of their identity being stolen.

What can you do to protect yourself?

- Check out the Australian Government Scam Watch site - <https://www.scamwatch.gov.au/>. It is an excellent source of information about scams and provides practical advice if you have been scammed. Also, it is a good source on how to protect your computer.
- Hang-up quickly and politely if you think it is a phone scam. Don't risk the 3am call back.
- Install all software maintenance due on your computer – it doesn't matter if Windows, Apple, or other – all can be compromised.
- Install a proven anti-virus program and run regular scans. Free ones are ok but won't be as comprehensive or efficient as the paid versions
- Like cutting timber, think twice before opening any email or embedded link, even if it has come from your best friend. It is easy to make an email look like it has come from the Queen of England. Also, use caution when clicking on any Internet link.
- If something looks too good to be true ... then it probably isn't true. There are still people out there who believe there is \$5 million just waiting for them in Nigeria.
- Don't use the same password for your different Internet websites. If one gets broken into then all your sites might be exposed. See the government scam watch site for password strategies.
- Employ "safe Internet" practises when using Internet Banking, for example, don't use free or public Wi-Fi.

*Ron Fellows*

*Ron has been a Shed member for 12 months. Before retiring he was an IT Specialist for many years. He is happy to share his computer expertise with members.*

# Why is Ironwood So Heavy?

By [Chris Marshall](#) • July 10, 2018



**What makes ironwood so heavy? Is there a scientific reason? I have not found one online other than ‘wood so badass it’s used in types of nuclear engineering.’ I’ve seen woods like eucalyptus bunch up after being cut, but it looks like ironwood grows very slowly and does something similar, making it very complex in a dry state.**

**Tim Inman:** I checked on the Internet and discovered there are about two or three dozen woods that are commonly called “ironwood.” Lignum vitae is among them. So, as to what makes it so heavy, the basic

answer is cellulose density. Cellulose, the stuff Mother Nature makes her wood with, is heavier than water. The actual wood cells are filled with water and then, after drying, air. The balance of air/water and cellulose determines the weight of the wood. Of course, life isn’t all that simple. There are other things in the wood, too, like lignin (her glue) and sometimes minerals. But generally, the more densely the wood cells are packed, the harder and heavier the wood — regardless what it is named.

**Chris Marshall:** Among the many satisfying aspects of woodworking, for me, are the tactile differences between species of wood — their various weights/densities, grain patterns, colours and smells when worked. It’s a pleasant surprise to pull a piece of unfamiliar wood off the shelf at the timber yard for the first time and feel how heavy it is compared with other woods. Some are back breakers!

I’ve never worked with ironwoods, including lignum vitae, but I do know that it makes really tough mallets. It also was once used to make wooden bearings for ships and clocks because of its durability and self-lubricating properties. Amazing stuff!



Source: Woodworker’s Journal Weekly

## Today's Wood Screw Technology



What kind of screws should you use on your next project?

It's easy to be confused. Screws are undoubtedly the most versatile fasteners used in woodworking, but there are a lot of choices.



Wood screws are handy for quickly building jigs and clamping forms, joining cabinet and furniture parts, mounting hardware and trim, and much more. Screws form strong connections between parts made from solid wood, plywood and other sheet goods without the need

for cut joinery. From heads to drives, points to threads, platings to coatings, our author gives you a thorough education in the options available in the world of modern screws. or adhesives (and unlike glued joints, screws are removable, so you can take apart whatever you've built). Screws are also good for reinforcing parts assembled with traditional joinery — for example, pinning tenons in their mortises.

Choosing the right wood screw used to be simple pick a zinc or brass screw with the right size and length for the job at hand. But technological developments in construction and wood products manufacturing have spawned an extensive range of new screws in recent decades. There are so many choices it'll positively make your head spin!

I've written this article and shot [this video](#) to serve as a short primer on wood screws. Close examination of the various parts of a screw — the material it's made from, the design of its head, drive style, point and threads, the platings and coatings that protect it from corrosion — will give you a better understanding of all the design and technology that goes into the manufacture of every single screw. Hopefully, this exploration will better empower you the next time you need to choose the right screws for the project at hand.

### Screw Types & Materials

*Old-fashioned tapered steel wood screws are made from relatively weak steel, so their slot recesses tend to deform and cam out. The shanks of plaster board screws often snap when driven with ambitious force.*

Among the many materials wood screws are made from — brass, bronze, aluminum, etc. — steel screws are the most useful for woodworking and interior DIY projects. They're strong, affordable and readily available in a vast range of sizes. But old-fashioned tapered steel wood screws can be a pain to use. Many woodworkers switched to inexpensive plaster board screws when they became readily available a few decades ago. Made from harder steel that can penetrate wallboard and studs, plaster board screws drive in quickly and without the need for predrilled pilot holes. However, they're relatively brittle and will snap when subjected to high drive forces or stress, making them a poor choice for projects requiring strong construction.



Originally developed for the building and wood products industries, production screws, as well as construction and deck screws, are made from carbon steel heat treated to provide a good balance of hardness and toughness.



Fortunately, a different kind of screw has largely replaced traditional tapered and drywall screws. “Production screws” have points and threads sharp and strong enough to penetrate the hardest woods and manmade materials — even some metals. Their heads and shanks are durable enough to withstand high torque delivered during driving with a power

drill or impact driver, and can withstand the punishing stresses that screw joined furniture or cabinet parts may be subjected to. Hardened-steel screws with brands including GRK Fasteners™, SPAX®, PowerPro™ and Saber Drive™ are often sold as “construction screws” or “multipurpose screws.”



*The best screw materials for resistance to rust and corrosion are silicon bronze and stainless steel. (Brass screws, shown above, also work outdoors but will tarnish and aren't as strong as silicon bronze.)*

Unless they're specifically plated/coated for exterior use, hardened steel screws aren't especially weather resistant and they are best reserved for indoor projects. Deck screws are basically production screws that have been plated and/or coated to increase their corrosion resistance. They're great for outdoor projects, like playhouses or decks. For even greater resistance to rust and corrosion, the two best screw materials are silicon bronze and stainless steel. Weaker than regular steel screws, chromium alloy stainless steel screws come in two popular grades: Grade 305 stainless is good for applications where coated deck screws don't have sufficient corrosion resistance, while grade 316 (sometimes referred to as marine-grade stainless) are best for projects that are exposed to salt air or in areas where severe corrosion is likely to occur.

### Head Type

*Screws with heads that sink flush (or near flush) with the work surface are, left to right: bugle head, trim head, flat head and oval head.*

Regardless of a screw's material, size or length, the shape of its head has a significant impact in how well it works in any particular application. Head designs can be divided into two groups: those that sink flush with the work surface and those that stand proud of it. In the first group, trim head screws and bugle head screws have heads designed to automatically sink flush in all but the hardest materials (e.g., rosewood, ebony). Bugle head screws drive in quickly and have good holding power in most materials. Trim head screws are a good choice when you only need modest holding power and don't want the head of the fastener to show too prominently. When driven into pre-drilled holes, they are a better choice than finish nails for setting door jambs or mounting trim and mouldings: trim head screws are less likely to split thin or delicate wood parts.



*The underside of the heads of (left to right) the SPAX MULTI Head, Quickscrews' Funnel Head and GRK's R4 has nibs or serrations that slice into the surface to create their own recess.*

Traditional flat and oval head screws lend a nice clean look to projects but require a conical recess for their heads drilled with a countersink. In contrast, most flat head production screws are self-countersinking: they create their own recess that allows the head to sit flush. Quickscrews' unique "Funnel Head" screws, designed for use with veneered plywoods and coated sheet materials like melamine, have double serrations, with very fine teeth that cut into delicate surfaces without tearing them up.

Among the screw head types that sit proud of the work surface are traditional round head, pan head and cheese head (aka fillister head) screws. Each has a relatively small head with a flat bottom that bears against the surface of the workpiece. This offers a reasonable amount of hold in hardwoods, but in softer species, the smaller heads tend to crush the wood at the surface. When the joined pieces are stressed, the screw's effective hold is reduced. Screws with larger heads offer more contact area with the work surface and a greater resistance to penetration and pull-through.



*Screw heads that stand proud of the surface include: (front) round head; (left to right, middle row) pan, fillister, truss; and (back row) washer, super washer, flange and wafer.*

Truss head screws (aka "mushroom head" screws) have a head much like a metalworker's pan head screw, only the overall head is flatter and larger in diameter. These are a great choice for mounting hardware such as drawer slides, where you want good contact with the hardware but need the screw head to not stick up too far. Washer head screws look like regular round head screws with small washers set under their heads. The added surface area on the underside of the head prevents them from sinking too deeply, especially when driven with power drivers.

Appropriately named "super washer head" screws have even larger diameter washer heads. They excel wherever two parts are joined but must remain adjustable, such as attaching a drawer front to a drawer box. Wafer head (and flanged head) screws have large, flat coin-like heads. Most wafer heads, including FastCap®'s "PowerHead" screws, are not only large but are also very thin, giving them great retaining power and a low profile.

By [Sandor Nagyszalanczy](#), Woodworker's Journal Weekly - Issue 537

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