

Frances Keevil

Darren Oates

1965	Born in WA.
1987 – 2007	Service with the Royal Australian Airforce
2006	Studied under Terry Gleeson, Dural.
2007	Left Airforce to study full-time for a year under the late Tom Harrington, at Sturt School for Wood, Mittagong.
2007 – present	Full-time professional artist and designer, working with wood, creating fine furniture and sculpture.

After submitting a piece for a design competition run by Australian Wood Review magazine, Darren was invited by the authoritative magazine to submit an article for publication. His ability to make complex things sound easily achievable by non-specialists, have led to sixteen feature-length articles being printed in the magazine.

In early 2010, Darren entered the Studio Furniture exhibition held at Bungendore Gallery in NSW, receiving a High Commendation for his “Parabola” hall table. This success has led to over one hundred and fifty of these individually designed tables, being sold around Australia and overseas.

Darren’s continuing success ensures a steady stream of private commissions and gallery work.

Around ninety-five percent of the materials used, are from reclaimed timbers. Trees that have been previously felled and removed for the building of highways and roads. Or from bushland that has been cleared for residential, industrial and commercial zones. This allows Darren to use native timbers in his furniture. His preferred choice of timber to work with.

Darren lives on the fringe of the Blue Mountains with his artist wife Penelope and their little rescue dogs.

Studies & Background

2012-14	Taught the bending and dovetailed drawer phase of the Certificate IV course in Fine Furniture Design and Technology, at Sturt School for Wood, Mittagong NSW
2007	Certificate IV in Fine Woodworking & Furniture Design at Sturt School for Wood. Mittagong, NSW
2006	Certificate IV in Training & Assessment at TAFE Richmond, NSW
2005-06	Terry Gleeson’s School Of Fine Wood Working
1999	Commenced the production and sale of Bonsai display tables.
1998	Restoration of antique furniture, mostly for private use and some for sale
1996	Commenced woodworking as a hobby.

Exhibitions & Awards

2022	<i>The Art Of Making</i> , The Australian Design Centre
2019	Alumni Exhibition, Sturt Gallery
2018	Hunters Hill Art Show <i>Expressions In Wood</i> , Hawkesbury Regional Gallery, Windsor, NSW
2018	Shortlisted Finalist for Studio Furniture, Bungendore Woodworks Gallery
2017	Hawkesbury Art Fair, Hawkesbury Regional Gallery, Windsor, NSW Hunters Hill Art Show <i>Contours</i> , Milk Factory Gallery, Bowral
2016	Solo Exhibition, <i>Spacial Curvature</i> , Bungendore Woodworks Gallery
2015	<i>Creations In Wood</i> , Gallery Lane Cove, Sydney Hawkesbury Art Fair, Hawkesbury Regional Gallery, Windsor NSW <i>The Five Macs</i> , an inlaid wall art piece, Hawkesbury Regional Library, Windsor, NSW
2014	<i>Creations In Wood</i> , Gallery Lane Cove, Sydney
2012	Solo Exhibition, <i>Heartwood</i> , Hawkesbury Regional Gallery, Windsor NSW Solo Exhibition, <i>Reclamation</i> , Sturt Gallery, Mittagong NSW
2010	Finalist, Studio Furniture Competition with Bent Laminated Hall Table. Highly Commended.
2009	Prize winner in furniture design competition. Held by Australian Wood Review magazine

Publications

Articles written for the *Australian Wood Review* magazine:

Perfect resawing on a budget bandsaw / Curves for your furniture Part 1 & 2 / Mortising jigs and machines
Improving dust extraction on wood working machinery / Spend less on machinery Part 1 & 2
Making endgrain edgings / DIY veneer press / Evolution of a jig / The ultimate chair jig / Final finish before assembly
Sharpening your bandsaw blade with a shop made jig / Stitching long veneers on your panel saw
Using long push sticks on your jointer / Glue up cauls for curved furniture