

NEXUS 1 finds a new life in Urambi Village

The hardwood and concrete sculpture named NEXUS 1 was created in 1991 by the sculptor ANTOON MEERMAN.

His curriculum vitae at the time revealed that he was about 40 years old with credentials in cabinet making, teaching, set design and construction work at the New Parliament House.

Our efforts to find Antoon and his history since 1991 have been unproductive to date.

NEXUS 1 was on show at the Contemporary Outdoor Furniture Exhibition in the gardens of the Cuppacumbalong Craft Centre when purchased by Sue Boyd in April 1991 for \$2700.

The word 'nexus' means 'connected'. A Canberra Times article by Amanda Uhlmann at the time said:

'NEXUS 1 is a bench chair made of recycled wood and concrete. This seat fans out on three sides from a pyramid-type centrepiece. Here is a chair for self-time, for sitting quietly and contemplating.'

Sue was then the owner and occupant of House 61 .

Antoon installed her new art piece on brick paving to the south of House 61 where Sue would pass it daily, and others could see it from the common path to the C letter boxes.

Sue and Alastair Swayn had earlier purchased House 40 jointly, but Sue later bought Alastair out and became the sole owner. Neither of them actually lived there.

So when Sue later sold House 61, she moved the sculpture to her other house, on the golf course/north side.

In 2008 Margaret Gosling purchased House 40, and with it NEXUS 1.

Prompted by Alastair Swayn's offer in 2016 to donate a play sculpture to Urambi Village, the idea arose of moving NEXUS 1 to a common area.



A problem was that the 15 wooden seat rails needed replacement, no easy task because of the complexity of the structure.

Sue Boyd offered to meet the significant cost of refurbishment.

Margaret Gosling, the Executive Committee and residents agreed to the re-location, and Ron Parker took on the daunting task of refurbishment.

Ron Parker was Urambi's resourceful Handyman for over six years until recently. His role was key to the new life for NEXUS 1.

Ron needed to dis-assemble the sculpture so he could use the resources of his workshop to replicate the seat rails with unique geometry, using new spotted gum wood.

The sculpture weighs several hundred kilograms because of the four cast concrete sections. When extra manpower was needed at every move, the Executive Committee helped.

Ron arranged the logistics of the move from House 40 to the common area north of car park D, adjacent to the spine path.

There it was installed on 24 October 2018, to be enjoyed in future by young and old, thanks to the above contributors.

David Watson

30 October 2018

ANTOON MEERMAN



Curriculum Vitae

Education: Four year apprenticeship in Cabinetmaking (1968-72) with Apex Cabinets, Dandenong. Designing, setting out and manufacturing kitchen cabinets, built-in wardrobes, bathroom furniture, carpentry work.

Two year Associate Diploma in Wood Course, Canberra School of Art, graduated with Distinction. "Having had little experience in the design of fine furniture I decided to attend this designer/craftsman course to help me to develop in this area. It has also proved to be invaluable as a refresher course in fine hand skills, and for communicating with other woodworkers. (1984-85)

Work Experience:

1972-74 employed by Charak Furniture, skilled making of period reproduction furniture.

1974-75, employed by Trade Antiques, restoration of antique furniture.

1976-78 working holiday overseas; various jobs including the installation of a computer in Israel, restoration of houses in New York City.

1978-81 self-employed, proprietor of Antoon Meerman & Associates, Annandale. Manufacture, restoration and repairs of antique and contemporary furniture, and set maker for Reg Grundy Productions.

Sept - Dec 1981 part-time teacher in Cabinetmaking at Sydney Technical College.

March - July 1982 set maker for Theatre Productions at Nimrod Theatre. July 1982 fitting out boats, Drummoynes Boat Shed.

1982-84 Cabinetmaker at Sturt Craft Workshops and Woodcraft Teacher at Frencham Secondary School, Mittagong.

April 1987 -

Employed by the Quality Assurance Group of Concrete Holland Joint Venture as Part Time Joinery Inspector. Inspections of Joinery, Cabinet Fittings and Finishings at the New Parliament House in Canberra. And at Contractor's workshops prior to fitting on site. Compliance of work to drawings and specifications, report writing liaison with contractors and architects.

ORIGINAL COPY

RECEIPT No. 98

DATE: 25/4/91

RECEIVED FROM SUE BOYD

THE SUM OF THREE HUNDRED

BEING FOR NEXUS I BY

ANTOON MEERMAN

(\$2700) less \$2400

\$ 300.00 DEPOSIT

SIGNATURE

ORIGINAL COPY

RECEIPT No. 75

DATE: 1/6/91

RECEIVED FROM SUE BOYD

THE SUM OF @ TWO THOUSAND FOUR

HUNDRED DOLLARS (BALANCE)

BEING FOR "NEXUS 1" BY ANTOON
MEERMAN

\$ 2400.00

A.J. Martinez
SIGNATURE

ANTOON MEERMAN

Furniture
Designer/Maker

**DECORATIVE ARTS
WORKSHOP**

Murrumbateman, N.S.W.

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