

# Australian Furniture Makers and Designers

## Tony Kenway



Like Mark Bishop, following the GFC he no longer could be a fulltime wood worker and had become Australia's foremost cabinet timbers plantation establisher. In 2013, I was asked to help organise the Australian Forest Growers 2013 Conference in Lismore and to deliver one of the minor addresses. Tony gave a paper and conducted field trips to some of the cabinet timber plantation he had been commissioned to establish.

Throughout his 40 year involvement using Australia's fine subtropical timbers, he has developed a keen interest in sustainable forestry plantations, specific to these species. The fertile volcanic soil of The North East coast of NSW, Australia, where he lives, was once the largest subtropical forest in Australia which supported a local tradition in furniture making – a custom he has upheld.

In 1998 he was awarded a Winston Churchill Fellowship to study with prominent designers in Japan, Italy, UK and USA. Since then he regularly visit the USA, where his work is now sold and has won numerous National Awards.

In his own words, his priority is to create elegance and harmony in his pieces, whilst melding functionality and comfort.

His inspiration comes from his love of nature, including the coastal and marine environment where he lives; creating sensual flowing forms from exquisite Australian timbers.

His work can be seen in the Queensland Art Gallery, William Morris Trust House, Walthemstoke, London, The Henry Kendal Collection of Fine Wood Arts State Forests of NSW and the Tweed River Regional Art Gallery. His work is included in many private collections located in Australia, USA, Japan, Germany, Hong Kong, United Kingdom, and the Middle East.



'Bed for Dreaming' in Quilted Queensland Maple



'Changing Tides' Coffee Table hand carved in Ancient Tasmanian Huon Pine



Desk and Chair in Tasmanian Blackwood with Cow Hide top with Sculpted drawers.



Table and Chairs Suite in Silver Ash



Arm chair in Tasmanian Huon. Winner, 'Best Chair', Philadelphia Furniture Show 2003



'Cha' Coffee Table in Australian Rosewood Winner, 'Henry Kendal Collection'

Tony's studio is located at Coorabell west of Byron Bay and his web page is <http://www.tonykenwayfurniture.com/>