

The Eltham Woodworker



Reg Number A 0025947P

April 2019

Office Bearers

John Winkett President	9439 1793	Tony Orbe Vice President	0407 050723
Charles Camera Secretary	9434 2269	Dave Mitchell Treasurer	9436 4916

Committee Members

Keith Hawkins	9432 6751	Martin Lawley	0412 385184
Steve Mitchener	0409 003487	Bruce Jackson	9717 4802
Lorraine Kruger	9436 1742		

All correspondence to be addressed to the Secretary, P.O. Box 701, Eltham, 3095 or email secretary@elthamwoodworkers.org.au

Almoner

Alwyn Wainwright 9455 2187

Newsletter Editor

Beryl Watling 0421 086361 editor@elthamwoodworkers.org.au

The deadline for inclusion in the newsletter is the Tuesday the week before our meeting. Please email the item in Word or text format.

Next Monthly Club Meeting Wednesday 3rd April, 2019 at 8pm

At the CFA Hall, next door to the Clubhouse, War Memorial Park
448 Ironbark Rd Cnr De Fredericks Rd) Yarrambat, Melways map, page 184 G8,
Phone: - 9436 1907

President's Report

We had a very busy and productive committee meeting on Wednesday 20th March. A number of decisions were made and several new ideas were discussed.

Firstly, we have decided to obtain a quote from a signwriter for a new club sign. Even though we have been given a slab of cypress by Leigh Conkie, it was felt that the work involved carving and or using the router for the words was too hard. So, there is a slab available for any club member who is interested.

Now that the front windows have been treated with film we will now purchase some roller blinds for use at night.

We have approved a new process for using the table saw and Martin Lawley has written a separate piece about this. Please ensure that you understand the process as it has been introduced for your safety.

The committee has been concerned for some time about the low numbers attending the general Meetings. To address this, we are going to ensure that we try and get a speaker for every meeting. In order to do this, it would help greatly if someone would volunteer to take on the role of organising speakers.

We have also considered changing the time to an afternoon or morning and we would like your feedback about this idea. We could include a sausage sizzle if it was a morning meeting for example.

Tony Orbe has retired from his role as the Bunnings coordinator so we need someone to take this on. It is only a once a year requirement and it is an important club fundraiser.

There are still vacancies for the committee for the forthcoming year so please consider this as a way of giving back to the Club.

The Club was sorry to hear about the passing of Graham Skinner's wife and 7 members attended the funeral at Hurstbridge.

The Club is continuing to attract new members and once the current applicants have been approved we will have a membership of 110. Once new applicants are approved they all undergo safety training and the Committee thanked the training team for all their hard work, Dave Mitchell, Martin Lawley and Barry Lay. Without these guys we could not increase our membership.

John Winkett

Annual General Meeting.

Notice is hereby given that the 2019 Annual General Meeting of the Eltham & District Woodworkers Inc will be held on Wednesday 1st May in CFA rooms Yarrambat commencing at 8.00pm.

Members may submit items of special business for inclusion in the AGM agenda. These items should be of a strategic nature that would not normally be covered in our regular monthly meetings. The Secretary must receive these items at least 21 days prior to the meeting (by 10th April).

In accordance with Club rules, Office Bearers & Committee members retire at the AGM & being eligible may re nominate. Forms for all Committee positions for the 2019/20 year are available from the Secretary. The Secretary must receive completed forms no later than seven days prior to the meeting. Forms must be signed and include a signature from a proposer and seconder.

To be effective in the workings of the committee the applicant should have an active email account and a mobile number. For more information talk to the Secretary or a member who has been on the Committee.

Around the Workshop – April 2019 - Charles Camera

As one of the few woodworking clubs in Australia that is growing its numbers in the current era of Men's Sheds, EDWC has had a particularly high intake in the last few months. We have welcomed Andrew Snow, Matthew Clarke, Russel Wanklyn, Jim Stockton, Peter Goddard, Bob Martindale, Shirley Dwyer and Eric Gunstone. Previously we had inducted Vincent Galante, Robert Lenders, Ron Rowe, Iraj Maghasedi, and Agostino D'Alfonso with several more in the process of joining. Our membership is now around 115 the highest ever.

Last month many members took advantage of the club sponsored timber sale. A large quantity of timber was acquired and hopefully it is now in the process of being turned into woodwork items that will appear at the club's annual exhibition. Was anyone as fortunate as I was to get some amazingly figured apple wood as in the photo?



We have now been asked to assist with clearing tools, timber and machinery from two garage workshops. Like the timber sale this should also be a very good opportunity for members. A list of the main items will be circulated during the month and the first sale is slated for the 27th April. Pictured opposite are sash cramps on offer and elsewhere there are turning chisels, planes, measuring tools, some items of machinery and timber.



The committee has approved an update to safety practices as Martin Lawley has instigated an improved method for handling narrow work pieces on the table saw. The change involves the use of a feather board in addition to one push stick as opposed to using two push sticks. In using the feather board, it is first positioned and locked in the track slot on the outer side of the table. The 'T' bolt head is inserted into the slot and moved to a position in front of the saw blade, the feather board is set in a position to hold the timber firmly against the fence and locked into place. Only one push stick, a

long one, is then held at the end by the right hand, pushing the end of the timber right through past the riving knife.

Carving Group - 1/3/2019 - Steve Mitchener

Today the carving session was opened by Alwyn, as I was detained elsewhere. Initially he thought no-one else was coming, as he was here for a while before Sandra turned up. (*I know that feeling well!*) Then Rod appeared, and I finally arrived just before lunch.

Sandra was cutting chunks off her Pelican. It is supposed to be willow, but seems pretty hard and heavy for that. Alwyn was working on his Angel.

Rod was working on a small Wombat. This idea was supplied by Sandra as I had been absent and unable to provide Rod the next challenge. I actually had it with me. It was a small Viking figure complete with shield, in Kauri Pine, standing only 50mm tall to the top of his helmet. Rod decided this was “a bit small” for him, so I was given some timber to cut a carving blank “a bit bigger” for him to work on.

Rod showed me a picture of his finished Gnome, all sanded and waxed up. A very credible result, and it looked as cute as any Gnome I have ever seen.

I worked on my next Gnome, shaping his arms and refining his shape a little more.

Maike was an apology today due to other commitments, but there was no word from the rest of the usual crew. So, this is the end of the report.

Scrollsaw Group – 2/3/2019 - Steve (Man of Letters) Mitchener

Only expecting a small group today, as I already have apologies from Beryl, Caryl, Roz and Graham. I am in early, as it’s going to be hot. But only outside, I have already fired up the A/C.

Maike is cutting out 4 piece duck puzzles she has designed herself. Jennifer is cutting small playing tokens for her game. Tony is doing compound cutting of patterns he has downloaded off the internet.

And I spent the day cutting out Alphabet letters I have started to prepare for our November Exhibition. Due to the small group, and lack of interruptions, I managed to cut out 100 letters. Which is twice as many as I expected to cut today. That leaves about 800 to go, to reach my required stock levels based on the turnover of letters in the last few years. (*Now you see why I have started so early, there’s a long way to go.*)

It’s been a good day for all of us.

Box Making Group - 6/3/2019 – Steve Mitchener

Bernie and Steve had both contacted me and put in apologies for today. (Thanks guys. Appreciate that.)

As I am “Technical Advisor” for this group, and have no real desire to make any more boxes, I always bring my carving along to fill in any time when my “advice” isn’t required. Like today. No-one else turned up, either ‘regular’ or ‘irregular’ box makers. So, I am glad I had my carving kit with me.

Obviously, on my own, I couldn’t use any machinery anyway. (Them’s the rules!) So, making a box was out of the question. I settled down and carved away the day. [*There’s a pun!*] (I am hanging around for the general meeting tonight as usual. It’s a long drive home, only to come back later. And that’s a waste of time AND petrol.)

Since this is a box making session, I won’t bother to tell you exactly what I was carving, it’s irrelevant. But I did make quite a lot of little chips, though I did find the one-sided conversation very boring.....

Carving Group – 15/3/2019 - Steve Mitchener.

I opened up today, and settled down to wait for the rest to roll up. David Green had rung Sandra and put in an apology, and advised he was busy till June before he would be back.

Sandra fiddled around half the morning cutting a wedge to fit an axe handle to the head of an old axe head. When that was finally done, Sandra took to the tools and whacked into the Pelican and made some progress in shaping his body.

Maike worked on her seal, and decided she was at the point when it could be considered finished. Then she was into it with the sandpaper to smooth it off prior to “a sealer” being applied. (*Pardon the pun! But it was intentional.*)

Batoul was working feverishly on her stylised bird. All I can say is, it's not a Cormorant (*the beak is too short and the wrong shape*), it's not a duck (*the beak is too short and the wrong shape*), and it's not a Snipe, Wader or Plover (*the body is too big and heavy overall*). So, it's a “stylised something”. None of us are sure what that ‘something’ is. But from the base to the tip of its malformed beak, it looks very similar to another skittle of the tenpin type.

Alwyn worked on and finished his Angel. Then started on a Green Man Door knocker, similar to one he has made before.

Neil put the finishing touches to his Ginger Jar. (*It's to go with two smaller ones to create a set.*)

John Leahy worked on the shaft of his walking stick, and then started to carve a wood spirit face.

Rod was a late starter today, and worked on his Wombat. I showed him the Viking blank I had prepared for him, at 65mm tall overall, it was 30% bigger than the one I had done. (*Refer to the previous report.*) But he felt he wasn't ready for the challenge at this stage of his carving career.

I worked on a carving in Kauri Pine that would require assembly when all the pieces were finished. (*I like a challenge.*) Then after lunch I started on a “story stick” for carving faces. (*Another challenge!*) There is no doubt I will get them both finished, eventually.

Box Making Group – 16/3/2019 - Steve Mitchener.

As with any “group” activity, you're never sure until the end of the actual day how it's going to turn out. And prior to the event, I had received two apologies for today's box making, one from Jennifer and one from John Kinrade. John was real keen to start box making as a ‘soft entry’ back into woodworking after his long series of trials and tribulations. But unfortunately, it wasn't to be, there was another set-back. But it was of a temporary nature, and I assured him we would be back next month.

But we actually won't be. Next month it falls on the Easter Weekend, and we will not be having box making as a consequence. But we will be back in action on 18th May.

I was joined by Barrie Cole who was resurrecting a box he had started years ago. It is 35cm square, includes a shallow bottom drawer, and has a lid sloping to the front. It's made from Radiata Pine, and Barrie spent the morning salvaging timber to make the lid from, and machining it all up.

John Mentha sidled in and drilled some holes into scrap timber with which to make some triangular ring boxes. (*Please note: Not all boxes have to be square or rectangular.*) John then spent some time bandsawing some boards down for future use.

Steve Hood spent the time working on his laminated topped box by making Redgum frames to fit around the laminated lid.

Sandra was reclaiming old decking for box making. Then spent the rest of the day sorting and cutting Silky Oak pieces to size for two small boxes.

And Toby popped in to sand the edges of his Ukulele pattern down to the appropriate line. (*It wasn't a true box, as it won't 'contain' anything. I mean, when it's made up, it's going to let the sound OUT, isn't it? But I pretended I didn't notice he was fudging the parameters of box making.*)

And when I wasn't busy either advising, helping or hindering the others, I did some more carving. But as this also isn't box making, I won't mention what it was I was carving.

Remember, no box making on Saturday in April, but back in May.

Pyrography Group - 24/3/2019 - Steve Mitchener

Sometimes when you get out of bed, you just know you have done the wrong thing and it's just going to get worse. I had that eerie feeling this morning. I had apologies on hand from Maike and Shirley for today, and knew Beryl was just getting back from her New Zealand tour, so I wasn't expecting much from the day. And as it turns out, I wasn't disappointed.

I packed all my gear in the car and headed up to the Club, keen and eager to do some Pyrography. I had spent most of Friday preparing a project for today, and I was anxious to get started on it. At the Club I unloaded and set myself up, and started working on my project while waiting for others to come along. (*There are still a couple unaccounted for at this stage.*) And as I am usually early, this is the standard scenario. So far, so good.

I was working happily along contentedly making smoke, and I noticed a major layout error in my project. It was made up of three stacking segments, and the middle piece was not marked out in proportion to the base or top piece. It would look very odd if I continued due to the sizing differences. This was no good at all. So, I carefully erased all the current layout lines on the middle segment, then sanded it back by hand, and then meticulously remarked all the guidelines to make it right.

The layout was quite intricate, and this took quite some time. By the time I had finished it was after eleven o'clock, and the awful realisation hit me. I was still alone. No-one else had come along, so the deduction was, they weren't going to come. So instead of starting again, I packed it all up, shoved it back into the car, and headed home. At least the seats are more comfortable there.....

Events Calendar

- 14th – 16th June - The Australian Woodturning Exhibition. Kingston Town Hall.
- 23rd -25th August - Timber, Tools & Artisan Show. At Melbourne Show Grounds, Ascot Vale.
- 21st – 22nd September - Ballarat Woodworkers show.
- 26th – 27th October - Goulburn Valley woodworkers show. This year will be held at the Macintosh Pavilion, Shepparton Showgrounds.
- 9th, 10th November - Eltham Woodworkers Exhibition