

The Eltham Woodworker



Reg Number A 0025947P

February 2019

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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 6th February, 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

Well once again the year is already racing away! I hope you all enjoyed a wonderful Christmas with family and friends and trust that 2019 will be a good year for you.

Sadly, over the past few months we have lost two of our members. This is a timely reminder to everyone, if you know of a member who is ill or stressed in any way please contact our Almoner, Alwyn Wainwright (9455 2187). As a Club we value all our members and want to support them and their families in the most appropriate ways.

With the current heatwave in force it's great to have air conditioning, at least in the extension. We are currently waiting for quotes for our front windows to be tinted. This will reduce the heat a bit and we can remove the very "fashionable" tarps which adorn the windows at the moment.

We have had another instance of someone putting too much stress on the large bandsaw, so much so that the rubber pulleys melted. PLEASE, if you have a problem with a machine let one of the Committee know so that it can be fixed. This is a serious issue as it could be that if the machine is

left in damaged state without notice, an accident could happen to the next user. Nobody wants that on their conscience, do they?

The Club continues to have regular enquiries for membership and it is very encouraging to see the establishment of a Luthiers group. Congratulations to those involved in setting it up.

John Winkett
President

Bunnings Sausage Sizzle

As was previously announced, this will take place on **Sunday February 10 at Bunnings Mill Park, 76 – 781 Plenty Road, Mill Park.**

Thank you to the members who volunteered their time and added their names to the roster. By the time you read this newsletter, all of you should have received an email to confirm your shift and to outline your responsibilities on the day.

Tony Orbe 0407 050 723 or 9437 0378.

Beginners Session - Dave Mitchell

The normal beginners' sessions will start on February 4.

Please keep in mind my expectation is that the pieces you produce will be included in our Annual Exhibition. Our last Exhibition was well supported by our beginners.

Martin will be running some afternoon sessions, please refer to his newsletter item below.

Hand Tool Programme for 2019.

This year, after much thought, we will be running a course on using hand tools ie. the correct use of hand planes, sharpening and setting of irons (blades) squaring of a piece of wood, the use of the face mark and face edge mark. Correct way to use and sharpen chisels as well as the care of screwdrivers.

The way to hand cut mortice and tenon joints, bridle joints, half check joints etc.

A special on machine cut and hand cut dovetail joints.

This course will be run on and with Mentoring Monday from 1:30p.m. to 3:00p.m. at the moment it looks like it could be the second and third Monday of each month.

This subject to the approval of the committee.

Instrument Making Group – Frank Camera

The new year is off and running, and so is the instrument making group – well some of us anyway, a few are still in holiday mode. The first Wednesday session was basically an introductory one with members discussing their proposed projects and some having a go at the new electric side bender.

It was good to see a lot of interest in side bending and, for some, taking this next step in instrument making. The second level instrument as suggested in the December newsletter is a good step up as it includes side bending with a carved neck and is definitely much easier than a traditional shape but sounds just as good. Side bending looks exciting and inviting but believe me it is not easy!



The Tuesday evening session saw some serious work underway. Here we have Mario Trotta using the guillotine to make perfect mitred edges on the sides for his 3 string cigar box guitar body, David Green practising side bending and Toby Grant showing off a couple of fantastic pieces of book matched blackwood which will be used for his ukulele top and bottom.



Batoul Barbar and Greg Snow were also working on preparing some timber for their respective projects.

There is plenty of room in our new expanded clubrooms if any other member would like to give it a go. As I mentioned in the last newsletter there are a number of instruments of varying grades of difficulty that can be tackled by all comers, and they can look and sound very good. My only suggestion is that good looking and structurally sound timber is used, especially if bending is to be done. Very old and very dry timber will not bend well at all. Blackwood, Cedar, Maple, Silky Oak, Myrtle and Sassafras etc. are all good timbers for handmade guitars and ukuleles.

Nice woodworking trick:



Suppose you found a nice piece of blackwood in your workshop and decided it would make a good ukulele neck? But unfortunately, it is flat sawn, not quarter sawn!

No problem, just cut it down the middle, rotate both pieces 90° and glue them together. You can just see the join by the glue squeeze out at the end.



Hey presto! A nice piece of “quarter sawn” timber so good you can’t even see the join from the top – could even slice it up and use it for the sides.

Just before the end of December I was lucky enough to catch up with a very skilled luthier and ukulele maker in Eltham, Lindsay Holder, and saw two of his instruments in the making. Both were two of the most beautiful ukuleles I have seen. One had silver box (Eucalyptus Pruinosus) sides and back with a Huon Pine sound board and the other had the most beautiful figured Blackwood sides and back, and the neck carved from a single piece of Blackwood. He finishes them with up to 10 coats of Haymes Paints Danish Oil and U-Beaut wax - and they look fantastic.

PS: **Eucalyptus Pruinosa**, commonly known as **Silver Box or Silver Leaf Box**, is a Mallee tree that is native to the Northern Territory, the Kimberley region of Western Australia and Queensland.



Frank Camera
Instrument Making Group

Scrollsaw Group – 5/1/2019 - Steve Mitchener

We are barely into the New Year and life is already interrupting “fun” for some of the members of this group. Maike and Jennifer are apologies due to other commitments. So, this will leave a small number of scrollers to kick the year off.

Beryl was with us compound cutting a rather large reindeer. After some discussion Beryl decided to reduce the size of the beast and re-cut it to minimize the waste and limit the effort required. *(Sometimes smaller is better.)*

And Tony Orbe was with us also, compound cutting some “modified” dolphins followed by large Christmas decorations. *The dolphins were ‘modified’ from the original pattern as they looked too “stylized” to be real. It’s a much better-looking animal now.*

And Graham was cutting rings for another bottle container from various different woods.

And we had a visit from another Club member interested in joining our merry little throng and learning to Scrollsaw. Names will be named when they join the group for their first full-on lesson. But I will mention, it is a lady Club member.

And I had pre-cut and bevelled some sides for a smallish cube into which I was cutting a Celtic design. The concept is to fit it with a small LED light and turn it into a portable mini-light.

*P.S. I have assembled the cube, fitted the battery operated light and switch, and it all works like it should. And it looks so damn cute with the design lit up. Look for it at the Exhibition in November. [ooops! **Did I just mention the E word?**]*

Carving Group - 18/1/2019 - Steve Mitchener

The first Carving group for 2019, and as it was going to be hot, I flicked on the A/C when I arrived.

Rod was in working on his lazy bear in relief. We discussed it at length, and Rod deepened the background to increase the appearance of depth. It looked much more impressive at the end of the day.

Maike had scrolled a possum shape, and through the day carved both that and the seal started last year. Maike now realises getting a sleek contoured shape of a seal out of a square block of wood is a big task. Welcome to the real world of carving Maike!

The Nomad was working on his Fairfield dog from last year. Skittle, the fat bird, is a no-show today. He’s safely locked away in the garage at home.

John Leahy was trimming a walking stick with a ‘Y’ at the top. *He explained it’s in case he “does an ankle” when hiking, he can then use it as a crutch to get back to civilisation.*

Alwyn started a spoon in Huon Pine. And he got it completed except for the fine finish sanding. Good effort!

Neil worked on an exotic looking tripod stand for a base for an incense burner. He drilled and dowelled the legs to the base to strengthen them because they were short-grained pieces. *[I told Neil I really liked the look and concept, and may "borrow it" to create something of my own. I'll just add it to the list....]*

Batoul was also working on a shallow spoon in Huon Pine. But it had a 'natural look' handle with a random shape.

Sandra worked on a wombat the size of a very, very large football.

And I was working on three different gnomes at various stages in Kauri Pine. They were all inspired by the ones I did for the last Exhibition, and two are just variations of the 'traditional stance' Gnomes, whilst the third one is in a 'non-traditional' pose.

Box Making Group –Steve Mitchener - 19/1/2019

It seems I barely left and I am back for another session. At least the weather is cooler than yesterday, and we don't need the A/C.

Steve Hood joined me early and set up to start cutting large blind dovetails by hand for a box. By mid-morning he was regretting the decision, the wood was hard and the progress was very slow. But he was too far along to stop and change direction now.

I assisted Raman in splitting some Redgum boards on the bandsaw to make veneers for a box he is making for a wedding present. *(He's keen to get it done, as he plans to hand-deliver the gift, and the wedding is overseas!)*

Paul was bandsawing thick round pieces out of square blocks. He didn't tell me what they were for, but I would guess they are for turning.

Mark was working on picture frames and some trays of various descriptions. He would have got more done if he hadn't left several pieces at home!

And I was pleased to supervise and assist Barry Cole, a long time member, in machining some timber for boxes. Barry is making a return to woodwork after a long absence, and requested I "oversee and assist" in the machining operations to ensure he hadn't forgotten any of the safety practices required in using the machines. I am pleased to report that a few suggestions and tips were all that were needed to negotiate the required operations successfully.

And while I personally didn't get much work done, everyone else had a very successful day in the workshop. And as we all went home intact, with no malfunctions and no mishaps, I am happy to declare it a successful day for all.

Pyrography Group - 27/1/2019 - Steve Mitchener

This is the first session for the year, and I know it's going to be a small group, and a short report. For starters it's a long weekend. And we all know how Australians love their long weekends. A legitimate excuse to spend time away, have time to spend with family and friends, and a reason for gatherings around the barbeque. That sort of thing is a great Aussie tradition.

I know Graham is away with family, and I also expected Maike to be absent too, away camping with her husband and enjoying their recent retirements. So, I was surprised when Maike walked in the door this morning. Her explanation was that she cut her weekend short, because she didn't want to miss this Pyrography session and the companionship and conversation that came with it.

Maike had coupled together a couple of her photos from a previous camping trip, to create an estuary scene comprising of a tidal river, a pier and a couple of boats. The scene was soon transferred to a piece of ply, and the real work began.

By this time Beryl had joined us, and set to work on a cheese platter. Decorating it with a picture of caricature mice and cheese. (I mean, what else would you put on a cheese platter?)

I worked on another sign to adorn my scrollsaw while I am demonstrating. (You can never have too many signs proclaiming your expertise. A very wise and talented sign maker told me that.) Then I started on a finely detailed picture of an owl, to finish the day. I am thinking of embellishing this with one of my witty or wise sayings, if I can think of an appropriate adage to add.

We worked away and discussed many topics at great length and detail throughout the day. Beryl finished her decorations, and Maike and I suggested some finer enhancements to move it to the next level. Beryl quickly incorporated these, and was very pleased with the final result.

Maike finished her scene, and after discussion, decided to "adjust" certain details to enhance the effect. My owl, detailed as it was, was only half done, but showing great promise for completion in the next session. So, we decided we had done enough and packed up for the day.

Ahhhh. Not so short a report! Well done Steve!

Timber Finishing by Martin Lawley

What finish will I use? That is the first question one must ask oneself before applying any type of finish. Why do we ask ourselves this question? It is so that we know how much sanding and what grits we need to use. Not only that but also what type of timber we have used to make our finished article.

This seems to be a lot of questions we are asking ourselves but it is important. As we become more experienced we will do it as second nature. Are we using a pine or a hardwood or a native hardwood timber? They all require a different approach; as to how much sanding we can do without affecting the cell structure of surface of our piece.

Pine (i.e. Radiata) is one timber that less is more by that I mean do not over sand. I personally would only go through to 240 grit at the most, starting off at 120 grit to 180 and then 240grit. After your first sanding remove the sanding dust and then with damp to wet cloth wipe over your piece to raise the grain, then sand again through to 240grit. After you have applied the first coat of finish whether it is Varnish, Wipe on Poly or Danish oil leave it for at least 24 hours to dry, then de nib with 360 or 400 grit paper. Do this after each and every coat you apply until you reach the desired finish required. A special note if you use Danish oil after 2 or 3 coats apply your last coat as a very wet coat then with a piece of 800 or 1200 wet and dry (carbonium paper) wet rub the piece then wipe of the slurry and leave to dry. The reason for this is the slurry will fill any small imperfections that may show up in the finish. After 24 to 48 hours one can start to apply a coat of wax but buff it back with 0000 steel wool then apply another coat and buff that back with a clean soft cloth.

There is an old saying as to how many times do you apply polish to a piece of furniture, goes something like this:- once a day for a week, once a week for a month, once a month for a year, then on your birthday.

If you are using Oregon (Douglas Fir) use the same method as for pine if you are using one of our Native Hardwoods still raise the grain and then sand through to 360 to 400 grit. Then after each coat of finish de nib with 400grit and repeat as per need. To finish off, use the method as used for pine.

Some timber you will need to apply a sanding sealer. Why, you may ask? It is that the timber is very dry and porous and needs a helping hand to achieve an acceptable finish. That is something you may never encounter but your next piece, the timber may be like that. It is unusual but it does happen.

I try to use a cork block to sand but if I am sanding edges I use a wood block with the edges arced, I won't say that is always the case but it is a matter of horses for courses. I have found the soft sanding pads prepared with the foam inside is not suitable for edges and of course the surface near the edges is quite vulnerable to rounding over, one will have to pay strict attention if one wishes to use such a product, it is fine for round or spindles to give final sanding to.

It is a good way to help make a great finish to use an orbital sander to help prepare a piece for finishing, especially with 180 grit on Pine or Oregon then finish off, by hand, with 240grit. I don't always use machinery to do my final finish as you can usually feel any abnormal bumps or hollows in your work.

My preferred type of sandpaper is the aluminium oxide (white) paper as it doesn't clog up as quickly as some other papers, this comes about from doing body repair work. (in a previous life).

If you wish to use a stain, more so on Pine there are several main types which are Oil, Spirit & Water based these also depend on what final finish you wish to use. The use of oil based stain is my preference but care is needed as to what finish is used, if you use an oil based finish be very careful not to apply too much and over work the finish as it can dilute the stain. With this way of finishing it is best to leave the piece after staining for at least 48 hours to cure properly then apply final finish. Sometimes it is better to use an oil based stain with a water or spirit based finish i.e. varnish or shellac. I have not used any water based stain or varnish and I have no idea as to how they react under different conditions.

I hope that this article is of some help to apply a good finish to your piece.

Screws for Sale

I have a number of screws for sale in different sizes and various gauges

BRASS

8g x 19 round head	\$5.00
8g x 19 C/sunk 144	\$5.00
8G X 12 C/sunk	\$3.00
8g x 19 C/sunk 2boxes	\$3.00ea
6g x 25 R/head Bright 2boxes	\$3.00ea
12g x 51 C/sunk 200qty.	\$40.00
12g x 51 C/sunk 30qty	\$5.00
8g x 51 C/sunk 67qty.	\$5.00
10g x 75 C/sunk 21qty.	\$3.00
8g x 32 C/sunk 28qty	\$3.00
12g x 38 C/sunk 32qty	\$3.00

STEEL

8g x 16 C/sunk 3 boxes	\$3.00ea
8g x 19 C/sunk 6 pkts.	\$3.00ea
7g x 25 C/sunk bright 3boxes	\$5.00ea
8g x 19 C/sunk bright 1box	\$5.00
8g x 60 C/sunk 1box (100)	\$5.00
10g x 45C/sunk 1box	\$5.00
6g x 12 raised head b 2 boxes	\$5.00ea
8g x 25 R/head N/plated 1box	\$5.00
6g x 16 C/sunk 1 bag? 1pkt.	\$3.00ea
5g x 25 C/sunk 2 pkt.	\$3.00ea
5g x 12 c/sunk	\$2.00

10g x 62 C/sunk 5qty	\$1.00	10g x 10 Pan head 1box	\$2.00
10g x 38 C/sunk 3boxes	\$10.00ea	6g x 12 Raised head 1box	\$2.00
6g x 30 long thread 34qty	\$2.00	5g x 19 Round hd. 1box	\$2.00
10g x 30 long thread 38qty	\$2.00	10g x 25 C/sunk bright 2boxes	\$3.00ea
10g x 25 C/sunk 2 boxes	\$10.00ea	6g x 25 Self tapping 1000qty	\$10.00
8g x 25 C/sunk 1 box	\$10.00	6g x 12 N/plated 1box	\$5.00
8g x 19 long thread 1 box	\$10.00	10g x 19 C/sunk 2 boxes	\$5.00
8g x 25 long thread 100qty	\$5.00	4g x 12.7 C/sunk bright 1box	\$2.00
10g x 19 C/sunk 2 boxes	\$5.00		
8g x 40 C/sunk 1bag	\$5.00		
12 x 45 C/sunk 49qty	\$10.00		

BRONZE

4g x 19 long thread 2 boxes \$5.00ea

If you need more information feel free to contact me on 0412 385 184 or email martinlawley@optusnet.com.au The prices quoted are all ono.
I will have all this stock at the next general meeting in February.

Martin Lawley.

Timber Sale

The sale will be held next weekend the 2nd and 3rd of Feb.

Address is - 32 Haldane RD Eltham South (Cnr of Banoon RD)

The seller is Brian Cutler and if you need any clarification please call me on 0413481699.

NOTE This is a private sale and EDWC does not have any other interest or involvement other than to issue invitations and indicate scope of goods.

Please do not turn up until after 9:30 AM Saturday or Sunday

Timber will be marked with prices - these prices are considered very generous by the owner so please be considerate. Cash only payable on purchase. Please try to bring small dollar denominations to assist with change.

Arrangement may be made to leave timber on site to be picked up at a later time as agreed with the owner. Please inspect timber carefully as there are no guarantees on suitability for any application.

Please park on the street or on the bottom of the block. Only room for a few cars at the house and sheds. There is access to the rear of the property to load timber after purchase.

A partial list of available timber is -

Bark slabs, roughsawn:

-Atlantic Cedar - 35 @2500 x 50 x 300 (av)

-Brown Oak - 20 @ various sizes

-Silky Oak - 5 @ large

-Cypress pine - 9 @ 2500 x 40 x 350

-Eucalypt/Hardwood - approx 10 x various sizes

-Black Walnut: -10 pieces, varying sizes small to large, roughsawn.

Fruit wood:

-pear and apple, Approx 250 pieces 700 to 1000, 15 to 30mm boards 100-150 wide (all bandsawn)

Blackwood: 20 @ 550 x 140 x 22 (milled)

Jarrah - recycled:

-8 @ 1300 x 220 x 45 (milled)

-T&G floorboards (recycled) - 20 @ various lengths

NSW Rosewood (milled boards):

-2 @3800 x 150 x 40

-1 @3300 x 150 x 40

-1 @3300 x 100 x 100

Guitar timbers (milled):

-Celery Top and King Billy Pine -various boards

-Mahogany pieces

-Rock Maple

Kauri boards (recycled, milled):

-8 @1800 x 200 x 25 plus odds

Odds and sods:

-Radiata Pine

-Blackwood

-Red Pine

-Oregon, solid and panelling pieces

-3-ply 22 sheets 700 x 900

...plus more not listed!!

Events Calendar

- 26th & 27th October - Goulburn Valley Woodworkers have rescheduled their annual woodworking show. It is normally held in March, but this year will be held at the Macintosh Pavilion, Shepparton Showgrounds.