

The Eltham Woodworker



Reg Number A 0025947P

December 2019

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Almoner

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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 5th February, 2020 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: - 0480 134 914

President's Report November 2019

Well another year is nearly over and Christmas is only 4 weeks away. As usual time seems to have passed even faster than last year but I guess it always seems like that in retrospect.

The Exhibition was again a great success and many thanks again to Geoff Oliver for his great service to the Club as Exhibition Chair. Congratulations and thanks to John Brownrigg who will now take over as the Chair. The Exhibition is not only a showcase for members work it is also an important PR event for the Club.

Raffle ticket sales were a bit down on previous years but it would be very difficult to replace it with a project that raises between \$4500 and \$5000 for the Club. The PR value is also a major consideration. For next year's raffle prizes the Committee has decided to appoint two sub-committees to make the prizes and Rado Starec will coordinate this work. We would like to see at least six members put their hands up for this very important project. Thanks to John Mentha who has already donated a red gum coffee table as one of the prizes.

For the first time the Club has secured a sponsor, Bendigo Bank. They gave us \$1000 to offset the costs of the Exhibition opening and the Children's workshop. We will be working with Bendigo Bank to seek to increase their support next year. Anyone who is thinking about moving their bank accounts, particularly after the latest fiasco from Westpac, go and talk to someone at one of their branches.



The Club is held in very high regard by the community, the Council and the State Government and the Committee will seek to capitalise on this over the next year or so. It is a major priority for us to purchase and install a new dust extractor system and we will use every possible avenue available to us to raise the necessary funds including an application the Australian Men's shed Association.

We still maintain a membership of swell over 100 and our finances are in pretty good shape. Good enough for us to be able to contribute to the cost of the dust extraction system. At this stage we are looking at around \$30,000 which includes all new ducting and the electrical works.

Some members may not be aware that we have an Almoner, Alwyn Wainwright. His role is to check in with members who are doing it tough whether it be illness or any other matter. If you know anyone would benefit from a phone call please let Alwyn know.

On behalf of the Committee may I wish all our members and their families a happy Christmas and a healthy New Year.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

FESTIVE SEASON WORKSHOP CLOSURES 2019-2020

	Last Session	First Session
Box Making (Wed.) (Sat.)	4 th December 2019 21 st December 2019	5 th February 2020 18 th January 2020
Carving Group	20 th December 2019	17 th January 2020
Saturday Open Workshop	14 th December 2019 Clean up Day.	11 th January 2020
Tuesday Open Workshop	10 th December 2019	21 st January 2020
Thursday Open Workshop	12 th December 2019	23 rd January 2020
Mentoring Monday	4 th November 2019	20 th January 2020

Pyrography Group	24 th November 2019	26 th January 2020
Scrollsaw Group	7 th December 2019	4 th January 2020
Woodturning Tuesday Evenings	3 rd December 2019	14 th January 2020
Woodturning Thursday Daytime	12 th December 2019	9 th January 2020
Woodturning Friday Daytime (2 nd , 4 th Friday)	13 th December 2019	24 th January 2020
Wes' Workshop (Wednesday morning)	Currently Closed	8 th January 2020
Instrument Making Group	11 th December 2019	12 th February 2020

Please note: The nominated activity groups still have the dedicated use of the premises during their time slots. Consult the EDWC Workshop schedule included in the newsletter for full details.

Special Report: Shepparton Show - Oct 2019 - Steve Mitchener

The Goulburn Valley Woodworkers held their annual show at the McIntosh Pavilion at the Shepparton Showgrounds for the first time on the weekend of October 26th and 27th. The pavilion is shaped like a H, with timber and equipment sales and some live demonstrations in one leg, and more live demonstrations, product sales and static displays in the other.

A name some people will remember is Robert Murphy, now representing the Manningham Club, was present and demonstrating on the Scrollsaw. Robert is a past member of EDW, and was a member of our Scrollsaw group for many years.

Another past member of EDW was Tom Manly, who was mentioned as he had passed away back in August. Tom was an early member and contributor to EDW for many years.

This was my third consecutive trip North representing some of the skills of EDW to our woodworking country colleagues. While I demonstrated Pyrography and caught up with a lot of friends, I had a good look at what was happening in the country woodworking scene. This year there were a lot of unusual shaped boxes, and one in particular caught my eye with a little diorama built into the face of the box.

There were several small slabs topped natural edged tables for sale, along with more traditional small furniture items. Of course, there was the usual plethora of turned pens, bowls, and lidded containers. Masses of traditional styled boxes with splined corners, dovetails and the like. And there were the usual toys and nick knacks available in a variety of timbers.

There were several timber sellers there, and I did notice a lot of slabs and boards being acquired by many of the visitors. And in my many travels throughout the show area the reason for this was obvious. Some of the prices were ridiculously cheap. If I had need of more timber, I would have stocked up as well!

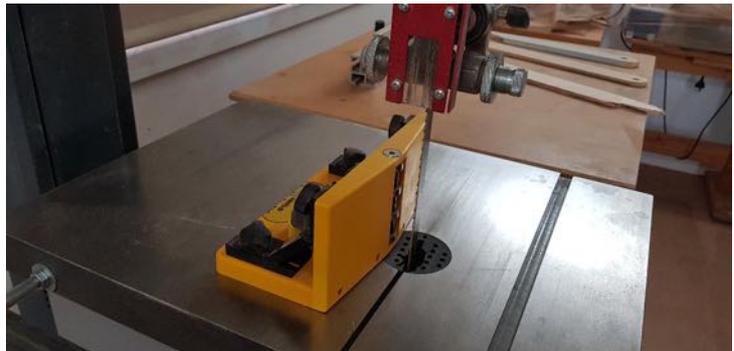
The venue was open and spacious, and there was plenty of car parking at the showgrounds. (*Unlike the previous venue, where parking was always difficult.*) It's just over a two hour drive from Melbourne, and the road is good all the way. Make a note for next October. The lure of cheap slabs, boards, turning blanks and burls should be enough incentive.

Beginners Group - Martin Lawley

We will be resuming in January 2020 on Monday the 20th.

Around the Workshop - Charles Camera

Not long ago I reported that the Hammer bandsaw fence mounting bracket had been broken due to excessive force being used on the locking lever. After replacement at more than \$250 it has again been broken in an identical manner. Forcing locking mechanisms is a common problem as several others around the shop have also recently been broken. To avert a reoccurrence the



committee has decided to replace the standard fence with a single roller Magswitch fence. This requires little effort to setup and adjust and will also allow more reliable and accurate re-sawing. Anyone unsure as to the correct procedure please seek out Martin L. Barry L. or myself for help. You can also watch this very short video - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rWlxafJhfHA>



We have again had a very successful exhibition although with a slightly reduced number of exhibits. The annual exhibition is our main exposure to the public and is very highly regarded by Nillumbik Council which considers it to be one of the local activities that defines the cultural and artistic heritage of Eltham.

We now have 108 members but fewer than 35 submitted the 242 entries. With so many new members and expanded workshop facilities the club would really benefit by increasing the number of those putting in entries as well as the range and number of entries. In view of the low participation rate the committee has decided to vigorously promote the exhibition and prize making with the expectation of greater engagement and participation. The committee will meet in January to form a new subcommittee to plan and manage activities for implementation. The subcommittee will also oversee the re-institution of a prize making workshop day which was once a regular and vibrant group but which has waned in recent years. **Anyone wishing to join the subcommittee** or otherwise assist please contact me or other members of the committee- we are especially interested in newer members participating. Next year the task of managing the exhibition will fall to John Brownrigg who will take over from Geoff Oliver who has most ably overseen the last eight years.

Every year our exhibition turns up surprises such as relatively new items. Last year it was bandsaw boxes and this year it was grazing trays. Keith Hawkins led the charge with a number of such items that not only sold very quickly and at a good price but also had many potential customers that missed out asking that he make additional “identical” units.



are very popular no doubt because they are traditional craft rather than commercial “same same”.

Many of us not only make items for the exhibition but also make lots of other stuff during the year that is never seen. It is a pity that such items are not on view to the rest of the club and I am therefore hoping to get submissions of such work to feature in our newsletter. To start this off I have co-opted something from Colin Groves whose special talent is turning tops as in the photo attached. Colin sells these at markets where they

I often get inquiries from our website and our Men’s Shed listing requesting woodwork items to be made and repairs to furniture etc. Most of the requests are due to the difficulty in getting it done commercially. Most are very willing to pay and I have in the past referred them to members who I thought would be interested. To make handling such inquiries easier I would like to set up a better system for referral and will shortly email everyone to ask for registrations of interest. **Participation will be entirely voluntary and it will be done as a private arrangement between the enquirer and the member.**

As an example, one such recent request was for a couple of door handles. As it seemed like a small job I instantly volunteered for a small donation to the club. However, when the diagram was subsequently emailed I wondered if it was actually for cart wheels as they were 180mm in diameter. Having agreed I felt I had to put up and here they are – who ever would have thought.



Please send me your stories, photos or any news item of interest for future newsletters.

Festool Domino Machine

The Festool Domino machine is getting a lot of use but some users are not aware that it MUST be used with the small vacuum cleaner stored next to it in the tool room. The vacuum nozzle just happens to fit the Domino suction outlet and together allows it’s operation without throwing dust everywhere and more importantly without clogging the machine’s dust chute.



In order not to break the spindle lock please also use only gentle force when doing up the spindle collet nut – the original spanner has already been broken. The short replacement spanner **is to be the only spanner used in future.**

Carving Group – 1/11/2019 - Steve Mitchener

Alwyn is an apology for this session. But we had a very busy Sandra here, working on her picture frame, splitting some timber, fixing a Silky Oak box and carving a Bilby. There are two types of Bilby, the Greater Bilby and the Lesser Bilby. Both are very similar in appearance, though not in size or colouration. And for the record, neither type is found in Victoria. *(Just thought I would add snippet of information in. Otherwise this would be a very short report.)*

Maike was carving a bird of prey. Rod was working at Mary for his nativity scene. Neil was starting work on a new violin from scratch. He laid out the patterns then cut and joined the pieces, all in a very nice tight grained Cedar.

Had a few visitors drop in and prepare gear for the Whittlesea Show this coming weekend.

And during the day I managed to remove a lot of waste wood from my little lizard. He now looks like a lizard, and is a lot smaller and lighter than he was this morning.

Scrollsaw Group – 2/11/2019 – Steve Mitchener.

And today is significant because it is the 16th Anniversary of the start of this particular group. I think Graham and I are the only original members left, as most of the current members have joined the Club, and us, at a much later date.

Graham and Maike are both apologies, and Tony is flying the Club flag with a small group of people at Whittlesea this weekend.

Beryl was cutting some small puzzles and detailing them with Pyrography. Jennifer cut out the Africa puzzle prepared last session, then cut out a tree puzzle. Once that was done, Jennifer started work on some wooden hinges for her Wedding Box project.

Roz was doing the final assembly and fitting work on her portable Scrollsaw table. This included useful things like a light and some handles.

I spent most of my time this morning cutting an overlay for a very different type of box for the 2020 Exhibition. *(That's right! Haven't had this year's Exhibition yet, and I have already started on next year's exhibits.)* I saw this pattern last week, and decided I just had to make it because it is so radically different. And I have got absolutely no use for it, other than a shelf decoration. It's like that exotic piece of timber that you see. You know straight away you want it, but you have no immediate use for it, or even a notion of what you will do with it.

And to confirm that I am finished for the 2019 Exhibition, after lunch I cut out a Red Crab, which after a coat of Danish Oil will be my first piece for 2020 that's FINISHED. *(And by the time I penned this piece for the newsletter, it was just that. FINISHED.)*

Box Making - 6/11/2019 - Steve Mitchener

Jennifer was here working on her Wedding Box project. We discussed wooden hinge design, and latches, in regard to the theme of the box. Progress was steady, and the project is shaping up very well.

Steve Hood was working on a 'small friction disc storage rack' for his small friction discs. (*What else would you put in it?*)

And the Nomad spent some time with us. He came to break down some timber and clean it up for a project.

Between talking to Jennifer and David, I managed to get some work done on my lizard. Not a lot though. I was having 'a quiet day', conserving my energies for the coming weekend, The Exhibition. (*I mean I could afford to have a 'slack day', because I have already finished a piece for the 2020 Exhibition. Refer to Scrollsaw report 2.11.2019.*)

Carving Group - 15/11/2019 - Steve Mitchener

The Scrollsaw report this month was a milestone 16 years in the making. And this report is another milestone. Since starting to write for the newsletter in 2006, I have generated a total of 399 reports on various subjects. This one is number 400. Why do I mention this? Because if I didn't tell you, you wouldn't know. Just another Club milestone, reached, passed, and forgotten.

Now, back to business. Alwyn was an apology for this session.

And Sandra seems to be obsessed with never working on the same thing twice in a row. This week she rocked up with a rough Huon Pine stump. (I know it was rough, and heavy, because I had to carry the bloody thing in and out of the Clubhouse. [*I was the closest thing to a 'Gentleman' here at the time.*]) Sandra spent her day chiselling and gouging off the rough bits and the softer rotting timber.

Maike was working on a pair of Meerkats in 'high relief.' Rod was working on Mary, 'in the round.'

Neil was working on his violin, 'in the other room.' He was cutting pieces with his Scrollsaw, which is a bit noisy when you are trying to talk. He was shaping the sides and neck of his newest creation. But he wasn't forgotten or neglected. We went out to 'visit and chat' quite often.

And the Nomad fronted to machine some more timber and repair a walking stick upon which the carving on the handle had been damaged. (*It wasn't David's stick. It belonged to a friend, who may have used it to clock someone with. That's just a rumour I am trying to start.*)

And I did some work on my small pair of Kauri Pine boots. I couldn't work on the small lizard because I had broken a leg off. He is currently having some minor cosmetic repairs carried out in my workshop. Poor little bugger!

And Geoff Oliver joined us at morning tea time to reclaim his vernier he had left behind.

Box Making Group – 16/11/2019 - Steve Mitchener

Today was a busy day. Quite a few popped in and out and got a bit done in between. One such person was Andy. The project today was a ring box. Not a large item, but obviously going to be useful when it's finished. Steve Hood was doing more work on his Walnut Boxes.

Jennifer was working on the lid and base for her wedding box project.

(*It's a commission job. Don't go misinterpreting what I have written. When I want you to do that, I will tell you what I want you to think.*)

John Kinrade was working on the base and lid for his hardwood box project. This first one is getting closer and closer to finishing. Remember it's one of a series of 'like' boxes. John is not aiming to 'clone' this design, he wants to mix it up a bit.

Paul Rushton came in and worked on some money boxes for Healthability. Then took the pieces home to work on them some more. David Green was working on drawers for a project at home. (*That's OK, because drawers are just boxes without lids technically.*)

And we had a short visit from Colin Groves. I don't know if he came for a purpose, or was just 'sussing out' what we were playing at here at the Club.

And I carved at my Kauri Pine boots again. The little lizard is still recuperating from his 'significant repair and rebuild' at home.

Pyrography Group – 24/11/2019 - Steve Mitchener

Not much to write about here. Beryl, Maike and Graham were apologies. Getting this close to Christmas, family matters take over, and that's to be expected. But Shirley was here, and keen to do a bit of burning with me.

I found out Shirley has a love of Poppies, and had prepared a couple of pieces to burn. So, we chatted about ply quality, preparation, layout, methods of burning and shading, and in general the do's and don'ts of Pyrography. So, while Shirley worked on her two pieces, I worked on shading of my new sign which incorporates a Peregrine Falcon.

And as I coached Shirley in shading her poppies, I started to burn some Kangaroos onto a Gourd I had picked up last year at Shepparton. Will need to do some thinking about how I am going to fill the background on this rather peculiar shaped object.

Maike popped in to say hello and pick up some "stuff" I had brought up for her. And we also had a brief visit from Ron Rowe to sharpen some turning tools, and then he was also gone like an autumn mist.

So, Shirley and I worked and chatted, and chatted and worked, until we had done enough and decided to call it quits. There won't be a December Pyro session, but we will start again in January on the 26th.