

The Eltham Woodworker



Reg Number A 0025947P

March 2020

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Almoner

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Newsletter Editor

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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 4th March, 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

This year has started very well with more new members taking our total membership to 112. This is an amazing number and we are one of the most successful clubs in Victoria. Something that everyone can be proud of.

For our general meetings we are trying to get a speaker every time but if we can't get one we will arrange to show some suitable DSVD's.

We will again be demonstrating at Eltham Bunnings on March 1st. This time with myself and Tony Orbe.

The Sausage sizzle day is only six weeks away, so put that day in your diary. We only ask members to volunteer for one session of about two hours so please make every effort. It is a great way for the Club to make some money and a good opportunity to meet other Club members.

All our groups are running well with increased numbers which is great to see.

We are now waiting for the outcomes from our two applications for funding, one from the Australian Men's Shed Association and the other from the Federal Government. The Committee is very concerned about the less than satisfactory operation of our dust extraction system. In this regard we will wait for another two months in the hope that we receive one or both of the grants. If we don't we will consider going ahead using our own funds. This might mean that we need to get the job re-quoted. Members' health must be our first priority.

It was good to talk with Dave Green the other day. He was quite chirpy and progressing very well. He was grateful for all the concern shown by various members.

The Council has sent a plumber out to assess the leak that we had in the roof. He rang me while he was at the workshop and suggested that he was going to ask the Council if he could clean out the gutters as well. At this stage I have no idea of any progress on either job!

The Committee has now decided on this year's raffle prizes with some a little different.

1st	Blanket box
2nd	Coffee table
3rd	Ukulele
4th	Jewellery box
5th	Kid's table and chairs
6th	Connect Four kid's game

Rado is coordinating the prizes this year so please give him a ring to offer your help on 0409 997 948

John Winkett
President

Annual General Meeting.

Notice is hereby given that the 2020 Annual General Meeting of the Eltham & District Woodworkers Inc will be held on Wednesday April 1st in the 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.

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 2020/2021 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.

Thank You

On behalf of Alwyn and myself I would like to thank all the "woodies" who phoned (many times) over the past three months to ask about my health. It meant so much and lifted my spirits. You are such a great club and the meaning of brotherhood shows through with your actions.

Sincerely, Judy Wainwright.

Thank You, Thank You, Thank You

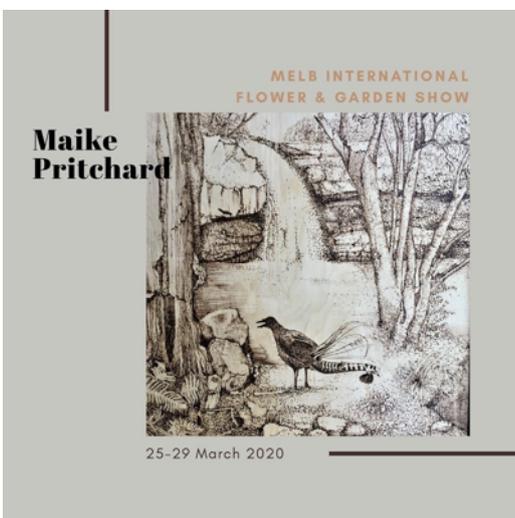
As many of you may be aware I recently had major surgery (open heart surgery). Currently I am in recovery at home and from all of the people who understand (surgeons, doctors etc) I am doing okay.

However, I would like to thank the ladies and gentlemen from this great club of ours (Eltham & District Woodworkers) for the wonderful support I have received from so many of you. I had some members call in whilst I was in hospital, many have made contact via email, text or phone calls. I have had to leave it up to my wife Janette to keep everyone up to date, as I just get too emotional to talk. Now that I am home I am blessed with members calling in, it is just wonderful.

Your support has been overwhelming and very much appreciated even though some of the members following up with me have their own personal problems to deal with, of which I hope each and every one of you comes through as successfully as I have.

Thank you, members of this wonderful club, of which I am so proud to be a part.
Regards, David Green

Melbourne International Flower and Garden Show



Maika Pritchard is one of the featured artists at the Garden Show. Her work is in the Gallery Precinct on the upper level of the Royal Exhibition Building, Carlton. Maika is a member of Thou Art Mum group of local women artists from Nillumbik and Banyule and she happily tells people about EDWC.

Her work can be seen on her public Facebook page

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/category/Art/Maika-Pritchard-Designs-130432384265014/>

Instrument Group – Frank Camera

News: The committee has asked for a ukulele as third prize in this year's raffle so I hope to have lots of pictures and updates on a traditional Tenor sized ukulele in the coming months. The tenor is the most popular model, tuned to the traditional high "G" setup of "GCEA". The smaller ukuleles are also usually tuned to this scale while the larger baritone is normally tuned to "DGBE" as in the top 4 strings of a guitar.

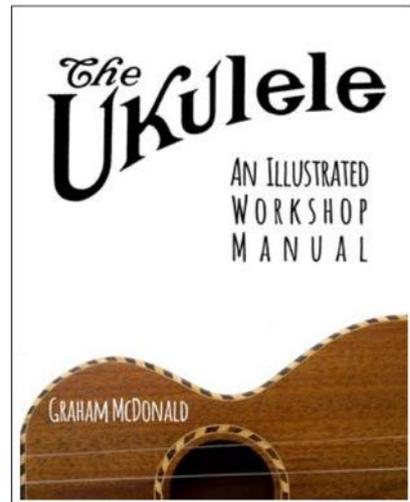
A typical traditional tenor ukulele which is about 66 cm overall with a scale length of about 43 cm.



I now have a new reference for ukulele making. It has 135 pages of great reading and pictures on all things ukulele making, describing the construction of 5 different ukulele models. The author is a very experienced Australian luthier who has also written books on mandolin history and construction.

There is still lots of room for any new would be instrument makers in the group on the second Wednesday afternoon and 4th Tuesday evening.

Professional luthiers use air dried timber for their instruments but this amateur is still trying to find the best solution using standard KD hardwood for the sides and bottom of my ukuleles. This timber is very dry and very hard to bend well unless it is very thin, but I may have the solution? A good coating of Danish oil on one or both sides of the timber works miracles. It was left to dry for about 20 minutes and the following pictures show the results of less than a minute's work on the bending iron for each piece. I have since found out that boat builders have done a similar thing for a long time, soaking the timber in kerosene before bending quite thick timber.



The shape below the 2 pieces on the left give a sneak preview of one of my next projects as shown in the next picture to the below.



It hopefully will be a "telecaster" 4 string cigar box guitar – if I can get the "box" together. The one in the picture is a 3 string electric CBG but mine will be acoustic, I just liked the shape.



picture above is a practice piece for the tail end of the body. Most of the corners are too tight for a traditional bending with the timber I intend to use, so.....?

Hopefully the next article will have a lot of other members' project pictures.

And just to show that Dave is not the only one with a shed full of "jigs" the picture below shows three already done for this project, even though I still do not know how I am going to make it – one bending jig and an outside and inside mould. The



Around the Workshop - Charles Camera

I have again been asked to remind members that safety practices within our club rooms are of utmost importance as unfortunately not all members have been observed following our rules. Firstly, it is important to wear PPS at all times in the machine room and elsewhere when appropriate. Our dust extraction system is unfortunately very noisy and hearing protection must always be used (*even if like me you are deaf!*). Eye protection must also be used around machinery with spinning components – this is most often observed not to be the case. Dust levels around the workshop are unfortunately too high at present and dust masks should be considered especially around the sanding area. It is also important to always switch on the air filter units in each area. To remind you of the rules we have reprinted an up to date safety manual which every member needs to have.

With Rado Starec's assistance we have been able to fix the bandsaw guide fence bracket which is now better than it was when originally supplied. Even though the standard fence is again available for use, it is still better and far easier, to use the single point Magswitch fence for general resawing – the standard fence may however be better for precise cutting of very thin sections and veneers. After a trial we have also ordered some new bi-metal blades from McDiven Saws in Williamstown as they seem to give good service and performance.

The table saw sliding table lock has had to be repaired again – it seems that excessive force is still being used to engage the lock mechanism which is not designed to be slammed into place causing the resulting damage as is clear in the picture opposite.



The Domino joiner has been so popular that the initial large box of the most popular size dominos has already run out. With the assistance of Barry Lay we have been able to source compatible (*and in my opinion better*) units from Porter Mouldings in Fairfield. Their prices are already lower than Festool's retail but in addition the operations manager has given us a special deal. As a result the prices to members are now - 8 mm (use on timber around 25 mm thick) = 20 cents each , 6 mm (use on timber around 19 mm) = 10 cents each and 5 mm (use on timber around 15 mm) = 5 cents each. The dowels as Porters call them (*I wonder why ??*) are now stored in the tool room with the Joiner. The money jar is still under the mitre saw. In negotiating with Nigel Stoner, operations manager at Porters, he offered to give us off-cut and seconds from production as per photo opposite. Some of our Wes's workshop group have already picked up a large box of dowels and mouldings some of which will be available to members for a nominal price. See Martin Lawley or Wes Weight if interested.



At our last meeting John Doyle, a foundation member of the club, gave a most interesting talk on the evolution of a chair design that he makes. The three stages of the chair's transition from an RMIT original design to a cost effective version for manufacture which still retains the original aesthetics and even improves on comfort are in the picture. At our next meeting Hamish Hill, who is a local furniture designer and maker, will speak about his design philosophy and give a presentation on his most recent exhibition of works.



Hand Tool Workshop - Martin Lawley

This was the first Hand Tool Workshop for this year and a very well attended with subject of handsaw sharpening and setting. I did have one of my handsaw's set up to be sharpened. After a demonstration of sharpening I then demonstrated how to set the teeth and why they are set that way. Several members had brought saws with them and were given the chance and direction on how to sharpen and set their saws. A couple had brought a couple of planes and chisels to ask questions on finer details in the final honing. That raised a subject of a shooting board so that is the project for next month along with a cordless router (*I'll leave that to your imagination to what that is*) to be used in the making of the board. The materials required are 1 @ 250mm X 19mm X 450mm, 1 @ 19mm X 19mm X 250 & 1 @ 45mm X 32mm X 250mm. The board 250mm can be made of 2 pieces of 135mm, the 250mm is the minimum width required. So, we now have a project to start on it may run for the next 2 months.

Scrollsaw Group – 1/2/2020 – Steve Mitchener.

Beryl and Roz had already put in their apologies for this group, and I had been advised that some of the members would be late due to attending the sale of Peter Davies estate. When I arrived, I found some ‘early-birds’ had deposited their gear and then flown the coop. But they had been considerate enough to turn on the urn and the air conditioner for me, knowing I wasn’t going to the sale.

I was soon joined by Maike, who happily showed off her purchases at the sale, and advised she had seen Graham, Steve Hood and Tony up there spending up big. We brought her Scrollsaw in from the car and checked it out, and then we proceeded to service her machine as recommended by the manufacturer. This task done satisfactorily, then Maike cut out the outline of a third dragon to prepare for Pyrography at a later date.

Jennifer had also joined us, and proceeded to cut some small swords from Kauri Pine, which were to be carved and used for hair pins. *(That’s what I call a unique “novelty item”. Doubt anyone else has thought of doing it.)* Jennifer said she had already made and supplied several.

And just in time for morning tea, Graham, Steve and Tony returned from the sale, laden down with purchases, and lighter in the hip pocket. They also brought with them an Excalibur Scrollsaw, which the estate had donated to the Club. As this is a ‘top-of-the-line’ product, I will set it up and get it running as soon as I have an opportunity. After smoko, they all got to work.

Steve was cutting many rings to use for his turned coffee cup.

Graham was cutting more hooks in the shape of the rear half of a dog.

Tony was cutting a free standing puzzle of a Centaur in Pine. His first attempt at this type of project, and it turned out well.

I was cutting out some templates for some segmentation projects I am about to tackle, and finished my day cutting a couple of small signs. Everyone eventually went home having accomplished what they had come to do.

Box Making Group – 5/2/2020 - Steve Mitchener

Steve Hood was here finishing off two of the three Walnut boxes he has been working on forever. *(I am giving him a bit of stick about taking so long. He really needs to do a little work on them at home instead of playing on that bloody lathe!)*

Sandra joined us later to machine up some Silky Oak for a Ziggurat style box. *(It’s square with sides sloping inwards, and the base of each successive layer forms the lid of the preceding layer. So there is really only one little lid for the last tier.)* The problem with this one is, there are no detailed plans, just a picture and stated base and height dimensions. So, Sandra wants me to calculate the angles for the cuts and the lengths required. *(Not going to happen! I don’t want to build the bloody thing!)*

And we had a surprise visit from Bernie McCarthy. Bernie has relocated, and is now settled to a point he can hopefully rejoin the box makers and finish the box he was working on. This particular box, which he had with him, was started on 6.2.2019 and that’s where it stopped. Check the dates! It’s nearly twelve months to the day! Fluke? Coincidence? Or just plain freaky?

How do I know this? Is my memory that good? No, I flicked back through the Box Making reports until I found the last mention of Bernie ‘in attendance’. I then noticed the coincidence in the dates, and wove it into my report. Wow! Fluke? Coincidence? Or just plain freaky? Or just good writing?

And I spent most of the time practising chip carving. Then I spent some time setting up the new Excalibur Scrollsaw donated to the Club by the estate of Peter Davies. It's very quiet, and cuts beautifully. Thanks Peter.

Carving Group – 7/2/2020 - Steve Mitchener

David Green was going to be an apology because he was supposed to be having surgery. But it was delayed at the last minute, so he and Janette came up for a visit instead.

Sandra was sorting out the pelican details on a small maquette she had fabricated in plasticine. Maike was carving the Two Kookaburras into recognisable shape. Batoul was sanding and rasping a small bird to shape.

Alwyn was planning the mirror frame he wanted to make. Sandra roughed out a tree for him, and Alwyn fiddled with the shape to suit his conception of the finished product.

Rod was working on baby Jesus in the manger. We discussed his next project, and Rod was sure it was going to be a relief picture, because he was tired of working 'in the round.'

John Leahy was working on a small wooden Wizard face. He said his knife was blunt, so I offered to show him how to sharpen it properly. He was sorry I did that, because within five minutes he had cut his thumb on the sharpened blade. Then through a swath of bandages, he managed to impart a pink hue to everything he touched for the rest of the day.

We were joined by Cathy and Garth, who had joined the Club to pursue an interest in carving. Sandra soon had cut some blanks for them to work on. Cathy opted for a platypus, and Garth went for a simple cross with a recessed surface.

I worked on my large Gnome in Huon Pine, got tired of the lack of progress and moved to a medium lizard in Cypress Pine. Then the chips started to fly.

Box Making Group – 15/2/2020 - Steve Mitchener

Part of the fun of running a group like this is that you never know with certainty what sort of a day it is going to be. Jennifer had let me know earlier she would be a late starter today, and Steve Hood had confirmed his own attendance earlier in the month. So that left a couple of 'maybes'' in the wind.

John Kinrade turned up to discuss fitting the lid to the first nearly finished box. Couldn't do it today, as the screws he had purchased were too long for the thickness of the timber he had used. So, it's back to Bunnings or Timbercon to get the right length. And with the way the day developed, he only managed to trim the lid to the right size before he had to go. But along the way he participated in a lot of conversations with different people and learned a lot in the process. (*And that's what it is all about.*)

Steve did turn up with a sheet of dark float glass, for which he proceeded to machine up material to make a frame to cover the edges. He wants to use it as a flat surface to prepare and process work on.

And the surprise addition to the group was Jane Goodall, who brought along some recycled pine to make a couple of rustic looking document boxes from. So, we had some lengthy talk about the process, including John Kinrade in these, and then machined the surfaces and split the timber to a suitable width.

As we were discussing cutting to length to get our sides and ends, Adrian Desfontaines ambled in and became embroiled in the talk. Jane and I routed rebates in top and bottom edges to take the plywood lid inserts once we had made the box carcasses up. While we did this, Adrian machined some timber on the bandsaw for his own project.

Jennifer arrived and machined some reddish timber from which some coasters are to be scrollsawn. (*Didn't look like Redgum, could be recycled Jarrah though.*) Decided a contrasting box would be nice to store them in, and is now giving the design some thought. In the meantime, Jennifer started carving another sword for a hair pin, which had been cut earlier.

I had managed to do some carving before the group gathered, but then spent the day discussing various joints, techniques and construction methods. So, while a lot was not done today, the amount of knowledge disseminated was quite abundant, so it was a very good day.

Carving Group – 21/2/2020 - Steve Mitchener

The Nomad had warned us he would be absent for a bit after his operation, so I didn't expect him today. Apparently, he had to remain in hospital a little longer than planned, but all is well and he returned home to rest. And he told me he was planning "a trip or two", when he was better. And knowing the Nomad, he has probably already wandered off....

In his noted absence, we had a busy day anyway.

Maike was working on her two kookaburras, and carving in the details. The decision was taken that 'simple is best', and there wouldn't be a great amount of fine detail.

Sandra spent some of the day reshaping a wombat, by adjusting its feet and ears. Then started whacking into the pelican with a mallet and gouge to knock it into shape. (Knowing what the shape of the bird is, and how much excess wood is on this block, this could take a while, believe me.)

Batoul was rasping away merrily on another fist sized bird. She was getting very excited by the beautiful grain being exposed.

Neil was working on his violin. Spent some time shaping the back, and then sanded the neck to a point where his next job was to trim the wood back for the scroll. But he planned to do that at home where it's quieter.

I had instructed Rod on how to router out the background of his "Tree of Life" relief piece, and set him to work in the machine room. He surfaced occasionally to confer on depth settings for various sections, but quickly returned to making a mess. He was quite pleased with how much he had got done by the end of the day. The next session will be cleaning up by hand, and then starting to shape the actual picture itself.

John Leahy had recovered from his lacerated thumb from last session, and bravely started another Santa Claus face in Huon Pine. He was finding it much better to carve than off-cuts of builder's pine.

Ron Rowe popped in for a chat and to do a little sanding. Meanwhile I was carving three mini-teddy bears for projects I was working on, and finished the day working on my space robot thingy. So, everybody had a great day and was productive.

Pyrography Group – 23/2/2020 - Steve Mitchener

This wasn't going to be a big group today. Shirley is absent recuperating after her knee surgery, and hopefully doing all the appropriate therapies. Maike is absent celebrating the engagement of her son,

and that's a good reason to celebrate with the families rather than come along here to burn wood. And Graham put in an apology, needed to be elsewhere and attending to other matters.

So, the only one I was really expecting was Beryl. And anyone else that turned up wanting to learn the "art" of Pyrography. Unfortunately, that bit didn't happen, so it was just Beryl and me.

Beryl brought along some cutting boards purchased at the shop, and crying out for some sort of decoration to lift them above the ordinary. A nice picture of fruit and vegetables was laid out, and consequently started to be burned on one. And Beryl had a nice picture of a hippo mum and baby to burn on the other. But we didn't get around to that.

We were talking too much. Beryl's other half is away, and Beryl had only the dog to talk to all week. "Nice to talk to a person" she told me. Which works well for me also, as I hadn't seen another person since Friday. (*Ed Steve has wonderful balance, he was able to sit on a chair with 3 legs as I had talked the other leg off*).

I was working on a picture of a puppy sitting in a boot. It's a picture I pulled from the paper in May 2015, and have just got around to starting. (*Now that's forward planning! Big time!*) I have had the artwork prepared for a few years, just never felt the urge to burn it until now. By the time I finish it, in another couple of sessions, it will have been five years in the making. Definitely not the longest project I have worked on. A lot of projects have jumped in ahead of this one in the queue, because I am easily distracted by new ideas that need "instant action" and go off on a tangent.

And while Beryl and I were talking, I told her I would spin this out longer than a couple of paragraphs. Since looking back, I can see that I have achieved that objective, I will close now and find something else to do. Unless I get diverted off onto another tangent....

My Project – John Mentha



A little while ago I was given some American Oak timber. The project I decided upon was a small bathroom cabinet to fit into the corner of my ensuite. The cabinet frame was assembled and glued using mortise and tenon joints, and I decided to go with frame and panel construction for the doors as well as the end panel. I was fortunate to have light and dark shades of the American oak, which allowed me to highlight the drawers (dark) in contrast to the rest of the cabinet. This difference in contrast I think gave the cabinet a special lift. I used metal runners for the drawers which allows them to operate smoothly and a simple shelf inside the cupboard finished off what I think was a nice project.

My biggest problem after final assembly was lifting it into place in amongst all the pipes. With the help off my wife (*plus a little cursing from myself*) it all come together as planned. I finished off by applying several coats of "wipe on poly" to give the cabinet a waterproof finish.

Cheers
John Mentha

Market Place

I am in the middle of down sizing my equipment, and offering them for sale at a reduced price. All items are in as new condition and have had very little use.

1. Sorby Bowl Finishing Scraper - \$110
2. Sorby Texturing Tool - \$90
3. Mitre Trimmer (picture frame mitres etc) - \$250
4. Dewalt Jigsaw DW321-XE - \$100

If interested please contact: John Mentha