

The Eltham Woodworker



Reg Number A 0025947P

"November" 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 30th October, 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

Dave Mitchell

After many years of great service to the Club, Dave has decided to relinquish his role as a Trainer and has also decided that it is time to spend more time doing some of his own work. Consequently, he has also resigned from the Committee.

In his time at the Club he has been President, Treasurer and a Trainer. Dave will be missed but I am sure that we will all see more of his famous jigs as he gets stuck into his own projects for a change.

Thanks, from us all Dave.

As a result, we are now seeking to recruit another trainer who will be able to work with Barry Lay and we will also need another Committee Member.

2019 Annual Exhibition - Geoff Oliver

Exhibit Entries

All entries to be submitted by the 30th October

Set-up Thursday 7th November

Delivery of exhibits between 7.00am and 10.30am followed by the set-up which will again be done by Isobelle Clement. We will need members to stay around to assist with the set-up.

Official Opening 7.00pm Friday 8th November

All members and partners urged to attend

Members with surname starting with A-K to bring a plate of sweets, and those starting L-Z savouries

Exhibition Sat 9th and Sunday 10th November (9.00am – 5.00pm)

8.00am Saturday set up demonstration area. Exhibition opens to public at 9.00am

Assistance of members required throughout the weekend to help with Wes's workshop, sales table, selling raffle tickets, assisting public etc.

Christmas Lunch – Dave Mitchell

The Christmas lunch this year will be held at Sinners Restaurant in South Morang, the same as last year. The date will be on **Saturday 30th November at 12 noon**. I will not be collecting deposits this year.

You will need to let me know that you are coming by the 14th of November as I need to let the restaurant know so they can arrange for staff. You will be able to have the \$10 lunch or order from the standard menu. I am not publishing the \$10 menu yet as it may change prior to November.

Pens for the Troops Project



The Club has received a certificate from the 'Pens for the Troops Project' recognising our effort in turning twenty pens for the recent project.

Peter Lucas, our local co-ordinator for the project, has let us know that he has plenty more free pen kits available for the ANZAC 2020 effort. If there are any capable pen turners out there in the Club, and they would like to contribute to next year's effort, then please let Tony Orbe know.

Eltham Library Display - Sandra Dean

The recent woodwork display at the Eltham Library ran for a month and displayed a range of exhibits displaying the talents of members from our Club. During this time, we had a number of demonstrations, mainly by Alan West, who always creates interest creating bush stools etc using hand skills; not a power cord in sight.

Thank you to all the members who participated in this venture and made this small exhibition a great success. As a result, we were able to not only highlight our Club, but were able to also publicise our forthcoming major Exhibition and sell quite a few items as well.

Hand Tool Workshop – September - Martin Lawley

We had a good turn up for today's workshop on routers and their uses as well as the safety side of things. I had bought 2 of my own routers with me to demonstrate the different types and their uses and why we make the differences noticeable, by that the difference between a plunge router and fixed base or screw ratchet adjustable base.

One piece of safety advice which was a little unusual is the use of a piece of wood with a large (30mm diameter) hole in which one could place the router base on with the cutter exposed without damaging or causing damage to the cutter or to anything else. The importance of making sure that the collet's nut is tightened correctly and not just nipped tight.

The interest in making mouldings with the use of several different profile cutters and then joining the pieces of timber to make unusual but interesting mouldings for different styles of cabinets as embellishments.

We moved onto the table mounted router to reinforcement of the safety side of the use of hand held and table mounted with the speed settings and the table of cutter size and recommended speeds mounted on the door of the cutter cabinet. Also, the way to adjust the table router without placing unnecessary strain on the thread of the adjustment screw.

All in all, it was a great afternoon and next month we will revise the use of and the sharpening of planes and chisels.

Beginners Group - Martin Lawley

Monday the 4th of November will be the last workshop for this year. We will be resuming in January 2020 on Monday the 20th. If any members involved in the beginners group have a piece that they wish to finish I will be available to help on Thursday mornings after the exhibition.

Box Making Group – 2/10/2019 - Steve Mitchener

Steve Hood worked diligently on his Walnut boxes and moved closer to finishing them. Tony Orbe cut the pieces required to make the lift-out tray to fit into his assembled toy box from last session. Tony proudly displayed photos of the completed box, now fitted out with handles, appropriate lift/closing equipment for the lid, and a nice polyurethane finish. It is a very nice piece.

Between egging Steve on and assisting Tony occasionally, I spent my day dressing and cutting timber for my demonstration reindeer for the Exhibition. What I ended up with was a collection of sticks dressed to the appropriate width and depth to make an estimated 220 reindeer. But looking over the timber, once I trim it to length, dodge nail holes, splits and cracks, and unusable sections of wood, I should end up a wastage figure of 10 to 15 percent. So, when you do the math, that's about 180 to 190 reindeer to cut out at the Exhibition.

But the hidden bonus is I already have 74 left over from the Wattle Festival already to cut out. So that should keep me busy enough for two days....

Carving Group – 4/10/2019 - Steve Mitchener

Maike is still overseas, and Rod, Alwyn and David are apologies for today's session. (The Nomad is wandering about the country somewhere again.)

Sandra trimmed back an old rustic picture frame so it could be used as a slimmer more contemporary frame loaded with heaps of inherent character. Then finished the day laying out a Green Man door

knocker, based on the plans obtained from Alwyn (who finished one a few months back.) A bit of work on the bandsaw and Sandra took to it with a mallet and gouge.

And Batoul was back from her travels. After marking out some small birds (about the size of your fist), Batoul spent some time band sawing them to shape for carving.

And I spent the whole day marking out the reindeer for cutting at the Exhibition. I had pre-cut the sticks I had made at box making to usable lengths at home, and eliminated most of the waste. I still have a considerable amount of preparation to do after I get them all marked out. I need to drill all my blade entry holes, and then spend hours doing the pre-cutting to facilitate an interesting show at the Exhibition.

Scrollsaw Group – 5/10/2019 – Steve Mitchener.

Roz is an apology for this session. Beryl cut out a baby rattle (for a great niece/nephew) and went on to cut a large compound cut sign. When finished we had some difficulty getting the waste off to reveal the sign. But persistence pays, and my experience with compound cutting revealed the cause. Lack of tension was making the blade flex and lag, so not giving a clean accurate cut.

Jennifer was doing small jewellery items. Then proceeded to cut a map of Africa and turn it into a jigsaw puzzle. Some members of the group didn't realise Africa was a collection of small countries. (*Who said you couldn't learn anything from woodwork?*)

Graham cut another dog-end hook, and moved onto cutting another photo puzzle out. (*There are no prizes for guessing puppies were the focus of this puzzle. Sorry.*)

Tony Orbe machined some timber for Whittlesea, then marked out some small animals and proceeded to cut them out. (*It's always good to have some stock pre-cut at these displays.*)

And we had Geoff Oliver with us doing some mitre cuts for box lids in the machine room. Rado Starec slipped in for a couple of quick cuts, and slipped out again.

And John Mentha was here getting some technical advice on scrollsawing some chess pieces. Most of the work is turned for this chess set, but John needs some help with the knights. He will bring them along next time I am here, and we'll cut them out in a matter of minutes so he can continue with his project.

Aurora joined us for morning tea, and was a nice addition to the conversational mix. And I was continuing with my preparation work for the Exhibition. I was pre-cutting reindeer, this involves about five minutes EACH. That leaves about ninety seconds cutting before the big reveal at the Exhibition. And I still have a lot of stock at home to finish yet.....

Carving Group - 18/10/2019 - Steve Mitchener

Maiké is still in Europe and obviously won't make this session. Rod has rung in with mechanical issues with his car, and the Nomad is away traipsing around the countryside, so they are also apologies along with Alwyn who is also absent.

Sandra did some more clean-up work on her rustic picture frame, truing the edges with a hand plane. Then started work on a Bilby. We had quite a bit of discussion with this beast, as the pattern and details are not quite right or complete. I actually started the same carving years ago, and stopped because it is not an accurate representation of the real animal. I figure the only way to save mine is to cut its ears off and replace them. (Lucky it's made out of wood, hey?)

Neil did some fiddly carving to a Cedar violin back. Then Neil proceeded to cut some internal ribs in Cedar to shape them for fitting.

John Menthe joined us as arranged so I could cut some Knights to assist in completing the chess set he is turning. The pieces he supplied were a bit bigger than the jigs I had brought along to facilitate this “five minute job.” (*Yes, I use cutting jigs and guides on the Scrollsaw. They are not the sole province of LARGER woodworks.*) So, we managed to overcome this set-back and succeeded in completing the task. John went away with four little horse heads to spigot mount on his turned bases after some more shaping and sanding.

I spent some time whittling at my mini-boots. (*Ed I can't see Steve in mini boots!!*). These are a long way from finished, and look like being candidates for the 2020 Exhibition.

And we had Toby Grant visit us during morning tea to drop off his raffle ticket money. Toby and family are off for an Asian holiday next week, and won't be back in time.

Box Making - 19/10/2019 - Steve Mitchener

Roz was an apology for this session. Jennifer came in with the intention of fitting extensions to the legs of a piano stool, and starting to make a collection box for wedding cards and gifts. The extensions were already cut to length, and I guided Jennifer in drilling the required holes and then trimming the angled ends to let it sit flush on a flat surface. Jennifer did all the work, and succeeded in getting clean cuts with a hand saw on all four “feet”, so the stool sits perfectly.

Then the easy work was done in machining the timber for the box to the right thickness, and also machining the lid and base in contrasting timber. I set Jennifer up on my portable router system, and she quickly cut the rebate for the base in the long board. We then discussed how we would proceed with cutting mitres for the corners, and planning to make wooden hinges and hasp to complete the construction.

Aurora joined us and made a humungous serving platter out of a piece of Spalted Poplar. A good sanding and thorough sealing and it will be ‘good to go’, as they say. Aurora then turned her attention to a laminated timber serving tray, and proceeded to machine strips of wood for this purpose.

- Sandra was here for a while working on her Silky Oak Boxes.
- Steve Hood was here working on his three Walnut boxes. Gluing up sides and bases, and gluing together timber for the lids.
- Andy Snow was again machining timber for table legs.

And Tony Orbe joined us to learn the process for cutting finger joins on a Scrollsaw to construct a totally finger-joined box. I stepped Tony through the process, and guided him as he cut the pieces to make a box corner as a guide for when he starts on a box. This method will work with Ply, and any other thicker timber, to make a box of virtually any dimension you can process through a Scrollsaw. Obviously, if you use alternate cutting methods to overcome scrollsaw limitations, you can make it as big as you can manage.

And between all of the above, I started carving a small Gecko. (*Had to do something during the “in-between” times.*)

Events Calendar

- 9th, 10th November - Eltham Woodworkers Exhibition