

# The Eltham Woodworker



Reg Number A 0025947P

**July 2019**

## Office Bearers

John Winkett President	0405 194 092	Martin Lawley Vice President	0412 385184
Charles Camera Secretary	9434 2269	Peter Davey Treasurer	9439-4889

## Committee Members

Keith Hawkins	9432 6751	Kim Webster	0419 182 953
Steve Mitchener	0409 003487	Rado Starec	0409 997 948
Dave Mitchell	9436-4916		

All correspondence to be addressed to the Secretary, P.O. Box 701, Eltham, 3095 or email [secretary@elthamwoodworkers.org.au](mailto:secretary@elthamwoodworkers.org.au)

## Almoner

Alwyn Wainwright 9455 2187

## Newsletter Editor

Beryl Watling 0421 086361 [editor@elthamwoodworkers.org.au](mailto: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 3<sup>rd</sup> July, 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

## Safety Report - Dave Mitchell.

The new Evacuation Procedure Sheets have been posted around the walls. Can you please look at them and find out where you need to assemble in case of an Evacuation? Be warned, there will definitely be some trials soon.

Can everyone please keep an eye on their buddies in the workshop. If they are doing something wrong (or not quite right) please have a chat to them. I have noticed recently during the cold weather, people wearing jackets. That is OK but you MUST either do them up or take them off. They can be caught up in machinery if you don't.

I think we currently have one person waiting for safety training on machinery. For anyone that has done the safety training, I have informed them to ask other members to keep an eye on when they first go solo. If you are asked please help them. Any member that has not used the machinery for a while and are unsure please feel free to ask for a training review.

Lastly, be mindful of people moving around the workshop with Moon Boot Trolleys.

### ***Eltham Library Exhibition - Sandra Dean***

Eltham & District Woodworkers have been involved with the local Community for over 30 years. And while we have a strong image amongst some of the community, we have found that many residents in the local community still are not aware of us. We have an opportunity from 22nd August to 23rd September to broaden the awareness of our Club.

We have arranged to display some of the work produced by Club members at the Eltham Library prior to our Exhibition in November during these dates. Not only is this an opportunity to display our talents, promote the Club, advertise our November Exhibition, but it is a chance to sell off some of our excess items.

If members interested in participating could send photos of their work, accompanied by sizing details for larger items, we will be able to see what we can accommodate. Alan West is helping to organise our display, so I would like members to email images and information to him at: [fernyhill25@gmail.com](mailto:fernyhill25@gmail.com)

There has been a very limited response so far, so please step up and support your Club. Don't leave it to the regular few. Entries need to close in the next few weeks so we can do the final organising.

Sandra Dean.

## **Point to ponder....**

### **Are you a Club Member, or just a Member of the Club?**

#### ***Replacement Dust Extraction Proposal***

The Committee are currently proposing to replace the outside dust extraction system.

#### **Reasoning**

Whilst the dust extraction system is OK from a workshop extraction point of view but is problematic from the collection point of view and not effective at filtering the fine dust.

During the extension works there were 3 Bob Cat buckets of sawdust removed from the shed. The machine motors were also covered in dust. A definite fire hazard.

The left (Bandsaw) unit is very difficult to fit the collection bag which then leaks dust into the shed enclosure.

#### **Costing**

We have had one estimate of about \$30,000 which was not considered. We have had a quote from Eziduct for a nominal \$15,000 for the eCcono 4000 model. (Refer <http://www.eziduct.com.au>)

This unit is more efficient in filtering and more cost effective with power than our current system. It is an industrial system, and uses 240 litre plastic rubbish bins for collection. It also has a shaker system to drop the fine dust into the bin when turned off. The noise level of the new system is expected to be considerably less than our current system. It includes panelling around the outside unit so we do not require an extra shed. We would remove the current shed.

We are also considering the purchase of electronic blast gates for about \$2,000 extra (from Timbecon). These improve the overall efficiency of the system and would replace our current mechanical blast gates.

### **Permits**

As the unit would be mounted about 600mm from the house cladding we may need a Council Building and/or Planning Permit.

### **Funding**

We are going to approach the Bendigo Bank and the Local Federal Member for a grant. The Bendigo Bank provides grants to Community Groups and there is no requirement to bank with them. We moved our Term Deposit Funds into the Eltham Community Bendigo Bank some years ago to improve our chances of future grants.

### ***Mentor Monday Report - Dave Mitchell***

The Monday group is going well, no I really mean EXCELLENT.

Rodney has been making Children's toys (rocking horse, walking block trolley and doll's crib). Gus and Mathew are making boxes. Dave R has been working on a set of 4 drawers with dovetails and a glass fronted hutch to go on top. Caryl was working on a rustic firewood trolley (however she is on leave at present).

Patrick has just completed a side table with a cupboard door. Robert has completed a natural edge mirror and is now working on a glass top table with 3 legs joined with halving joints (or do you call them thirdly joints). Batoul has just completed her side table with curved legs and a small drawer. Russel has just finished a bench seat that can be pulled apart for packing. Jim has started on his 6 metre long segmented boat mast. David B is making a Ukelle (a stringed box). Jane is making a fly screen. Lastly someone else is making something (just in case I forgot you).

Many thanks to Martin and Charlie for their help.

### ***Hand Tool Workshop - Martin Lawley***

What an interesting afternoon with a good turnout, which could have been spent keeping the heater warm at home. The topics, of cabinet scrapers and chisels, seemed to create an interest in a how to use, sharpen and what to do with them in relation fiddle back (cranky grain) timbers. In sharpening the scrapers, the use of a fine cut file as well as using an oil stone or a diamond plate to polish the edge; before using a burnisher to put the cutting edge on it, I think everyone had a go at it so I have a couple of nice sharp scrapers in my tool kit.

Sharpening of chisels was good as most members had brought along various sizes of chisels but no one had brought along a mortice chisel so we could see the difference in thickness and weight also how they are used as to how we use firmer and butt chisels. Everyone was able to sharpen their own chisels under some guidance from me and Rod most certainly did as he had a new set with him.

Sandra Dean bought some interesting planes and other wood working tools some of them are over 100 years old, there was a Jack plane which had the original owner's initials and date (1911) stamped on the handle also a gimlet as well as a router which created a lot of interest in what type of plane and what it's used for. Another tool Sandra bought in was very old rounder more than likely for wagon spokes or heavy chair leg tenons, I think on the size and weight of it, it was for wagon spokes.

The next Hand Tool Workshop is on June the 24th from 1:30pm. To 3:00pm.

***Around the workshop – July 2019 - Charles Camera***

A highlight of this month's activities was the annual Healthability program. A number of very dedicated members including Paul Rushton, Barry Vaughan and David Green have been busy making kits of components for the program and pictured below is some of the crew assisting clients to assemble them into useful and fun items. The Healthability program is one of our most notable community activities that has high recognition especially within Nillumbik council and has over the years garnered a great deal of goodwill for the club.



It is not that far off from our annual exhibition that this year will be held over the weekend of November 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>. The exhibition is traditionally the highlight of our club's activities and has always been well supported by members showing some of their work completed during the year. To all members **-please consider showing at least one item and if you haven't started something there is still time!** The club has many new members all of whom are especially urged to get in and support our tradition. All items are welcome, the show is not a competition and all items will be deemed show-worthy. Pictured opposite is the first completed work by one

of our newer members, Russell Wanklyn who fashioned the entire piece from two slabs of Silky Oak he purchased at one of the timber sales earlier in the year.

Several long term members were so disappointed that the old timber sign at the front of the club house had decayed that they decided to do something about it. Sandra Dean and Steve Mitchener convinced the committee to have it replaced and after obtaining a timber slab from Leigh Conkie with the help of Keith Hawkins, Steve has produced the new sign pictured – mostly using hand routing!



With increasing interest in hand tools and with a bit of prodding from the Instruments group, Martin Lawley has acquired a very decent set of rasps for the club. No doubt a “how to effectively use a rasp” practical day will follow soon but if you feel that you are already proficient, they are available for general use. Like all other quality tools, they will only remain useful whilst we look after them so please take care. On the same subject, long before electric routers and drills and such brands as Hitachi, Makita, Festool etc became du jour, the woodworkers all knew older famous brands. Before the days of internet and local hardware stores these makers relied on catalogues to get their range known. These are now a historical oddity and very thin on the ground but if you click on the following link you will be taken to site where a large number have been scanned and can be electronically displayed. Click on which ever catalogue image you wish to peruse and the contents will be displayed. (Thanks to Ian Berry for submitting this little jewel.)

<https://archive.org/details/internationaltoolcataloglibrary>

Members who attended the last general meeting would have been enthralled by our guest speaker Aldo Bilotta. Aldo is a graduate of RMIT in Fine Arts and is primarily a sculptor but is also proficient in fine furniture and famous for coach building. He has been engaged in around 10 vintage car rebuilds over about 10 years. Interestingly Aldo pointed out that a rebuild is still considered an original car as long the engine, gearbox and chassis has the original builder’s number. A rebuild usually involves the minimum of the three above items and most importantly the radiator as that defines the body profile. It is amazing that so much technology was utilised in wooden coach building such as the need to bolt each piece and insulate with felt (to reduce squeak) rather than the usual glue or tenons – this was because the body flexes and all the usual methods would have lasted until the car went over the first rut! You can see some of Aldo’s work here



<https://www.facebook.com/people/Aldo-Bilotta/100012081136146>



And what have I been up to during the month? Well lots actually and two projects were rather interesting in different ways. First, I had an inquiry asking if someone from the club could turn up two wedge shaped round wooden bases to allow fans to be fitted to a sloping roof on a new build. On

seeing the job at hand, I first thought it was for the more experienced turners in the club but then in a flash of brilliance I realised that there was an easy way to make them. Well actually it was brilliant until I started. I mounted the stock wood at a skew angle to the face plate and faced it off perpendicular the turning axis. Well yes it did the trick but what I had not counted on was, that a skewed piece thicker on one side than the other, becomes very out of balance and before long my lathe was dancing a spirited fandango at a high volume. So, for interest how would the smarter turners have done it?

The other job was to turn two large wooden finials to replace ones that had decayed over time and were an eyesore. The turning was this time very straight forward but quite the largest pieces I have ever attempted as can be seen in the picture opposite with my new one and one of the old ones.



Next month I would like to hear from members who no doubt also get up to some interesting projects that they can share in this piece – (looking forward to stories and pictures.)

### **Scrollsaw Group – 1/6/2019 – Steve Mitchener.**

A small but efficient and effective group today. Maike was an apology.

Graham and Tony upon arrival immediately started to complete the test tagging of the Club's electrical items. This was finally completed late morning, and both then turned to the purpose of the group, which was scroll sawing.

By this time, I had finished what I had brought along, pieces for a desktop pencil holder with a woven edge effect. And Beryl had started cutting more reindeer, but was floundering on the first one. I suggested a new blade, and offered to cut one on my machine to see if it was as difficult as Beryl was making it look. Lo and behold, experience and expertise made it look so damn easy Beryl was embarrassed. (Beryl was still struggling with the first cut on her one.) A big part of the problem was the quality of the Radiata Pine chosen for the job. This lot was definitely not top quality timber.

By the end of the day, between us we had cut out a total of nine reindeer I think it was. Which put Beryl halfway through this Christmas project, which is good, as we are now halfway through the year. (Needs twenty, and managed to cut one last time we were here.) Tony was also compound cutting, and having better results with the different patterns he was cutting. (Also, he was cutting a different timber.) Graham worked on cutting an intricate and detailed trivet, and then turned his attention to a compound cut pattern in a very thick piece of wood. This proved difficult due to the thickness on his Hegner. But I was able to put it through my machine and finish the job without any problems.

And a final note: Geoff Oliver joined us for a while, and did some work in the machine room on the Jewel Box which is the Raffle Prize. It's looking really great, I can't wait to see it finished and oiled up.

### **Box Making Group – 5/6/2019 – Steve Mitchener**

Wednesday box making is always a small group. We had Steve Hood working on boxes for his turned pens. Using Redgum strips set in Tassie Oak, in two different designs. Geoff Oliver was working on three different boxes, in various timbers, all with drawers and corner legs to lift them off the bench top. A very stylish design. Sandra was machining up some small Huon Pine boards to make the sides for a small box to suit a Huon Pine lid made some years ago. It had some undulating shapes carved into it and had aged to a very rich mellow colour.

I was trimming down the plank for the new Club sign. Once I had created a flat base edge on it, it was narrow enough to slip it through the thicknesser to level out the top. (After all the appropriate checks of course!)

We had a visit from Shane and Rhys, father and son, both interested in joining the Club. Rhys wanting to learn turning, Shane wanting to learn other skills to incorporate his blacksmithing skills with. (*Maybe Cabinet Making, Carving and possibly Pyrography. A man after my own heart. Don't get tied down in just one discipline.*)

After the group ended for the day, I spent the time waiting for the general meeting later this evening to do the extensive graphics layout for the new sign. So, it was an eventful day for all involved here at the Club.

### **Carving Group – 7/6/2019 - Steve Mitchener**

I arrived early and finished laying out the graphics for the new Club sign. I had to redraw the street numbers, as I had centred the lettering on the sign and lost the space I had created when I designed the sign off-centre. (Looks better centred, so I was glad I changed my mind on the layout.)

Alwyn was here working on his Green Man Door Knocker. Made considerable progress going by the mess he made. John Leahy was making finials for a bird house he was building. And then turned his attention to a Santa Claus face carving.

Maike was shaping her small birds. Batoul was working on what appeared to be a nest of Flamingos. (Didn't have the heart to tell her ALL Flamingos only have ONE chick at a time.) Sandra worked on her pictorial scene, while I used my equipment to rebate the sides of the carved lid and the edges of her Huon Pine box sides which were the focus of her activities in the last box making session. (See previous report.)

David Green (alias 'The Nomad') worked on pieces for his Ukulele and a wooden padlock. (*He tried to pass this off as "a mystery item". But I have been in the Scrollsaw scene for too long, and recognised the pieces, and blew apart the "mystery".*) He also brought in Skittle, complete with legs, to do some pyro on the body. He was going to leave without doing it, but Maike and I badgered him until he conceded and finished the damn thing off. (*Another 'fat bird' bites the dust.*)

Rod started on the first piece of his nativity scene. It consists of 15 pieces, some are of a reasonable size and detail, so this could take a couple of years.

For 'show and tell' today, I brought in a bird I had started on. It's an animated predator. (*A Wedge-tailed Eagle that flaps its wings.*) Hopefully it will discourage any more 'fat birds' showing up on these premises. Once the who-hah had settled down, I worked on my little man from last session, who is now developing details and is turning into a back-packing hiker. (Not bad for a random design on scrap wood, with no planned details.)

### **SKITTLE - The Nomad.**



Over the past you may have read on numerous occasions about a wooden bird being created in the carving group. In more than one of these articles it had been stated that the carver known as “The Nomad” was making slow but steady progress on a very large or oversized bird, ie not to scale. This fact didn’t concern me as I had never seen a bird like this in real life so I had nothing to go by.

Well I (The Nomad) am pleased to announce that “Skittle” has finally been completed. He/she will appear in this year’s exhibition and was going to have a sale price on it. However, Mrs. Nomad quite liked the finished product and has claimed it as her own. So, Skittle will still make an appearance in the exhibition but the price will now be NFS.

Happy carving from “the nomad”.

### **Box Making Group – 15/6/2019 - Steve Mitchener**

Another busy day at Box Making, with a few members making short visits to get things done. First off was Barry Cole who has scrollsawn and laminated together Radiata Pine pieces for the sides of a rose shaped box. Barry made use of the spindle sander to clean up the interior cuts of the box. Now he can fit the base and shape the rose flower for the lid. But that will be a whole other story.

John Kinrade was here for a spell. He continued with machining timber for his box, and we routed the rebate in the bottom for the 3mm thick base board. Then we discussed the best way to utilise the beautiful grain pattern in the wood to “wrap around” the box. This decided, John docked the piece to the various lengths needed, ready to cut the mitres in the next session. Andy popped in to machine legs up for a work bench. Because he is also a tall person, he would find a ‘standard’ bench too low for prolonged use. So, making your own is a good solution. (*Well, it worked for me.*)

Sandra spent some time cleaning up some blocks of wood ready for carving. Then glued up the Huon Pine Box we have been collaborating on in the last couple of sessions. Then Sandra hand sanded some Silky Oak to prepare another box for gluing.

And Barry Lay rang and arranged a quick visit to machine some timber. He loitered long enough to enjoy a cuppa with us and have a chat. Then Keith Hawkins popped in and thickened some timber, then popped out again.

Once all these part-time wood-workers left, I settled down and spent a couple of hours painting in the lettering of the new Club Sign. It’s really coming along now, though I think another coat of paint will be required before I seal the thing and locate it outside the Club. I have already worked out how I am going to do that, so there will be no major delays or surprises. It pays to have a plan.....

### **Carving Group – 21/6/2019 - Steve Mitchener**

This proved to be quite a busy little group today. There was a very diverse range of objects and products being handled to show the versatility of carving.

Sandra was chiselling out the bowl of a very large stirring spoon. It appeared to have an animal (a cat) coming down the handle towards the bowl. Maïke was sanding the two small birds she had carved, and preparing to seat them on a short piece of branch as an appropriate setting. Batoul was mainly sanding blocks and branches for bases. There was some discussion about how she should present her Flamingos.

Alwyn was continuing to make great progress with his door knocker. Rod continued to develop the figure of Joseph for his nativity scene. The Nomad (a.k.a. David Green) was working on a Bobs Set

for Healthability. Spent some time drilling the facia and doing other preparation work prior to continuing the project at home.

John Leahy was remaking the finials for his birdhouse at home. It seems the first pair were too small and looked totally out of place. Neil was very carefully removing the back of a violin he has been working on for some time. Totally dissatisfied with the first attempt, he was going to get it right second time around.

And me, I was working on my little back-packer. He's 80mm tall, sporting a good sized backpack, and has a head like Paul Bunyan of American Folk-lore. I was defining his arms and legs and some of the smaller details. Not bad, considering he was a piece of scrap in the shed five weeks ago.....

### **Pyrography Group – 23/6/2019 - Steve Mitchener**

The fog today was incredible. Not light and wispy just in the low spots, but a dense smothering blanket covering everything as far as you couldn't see. Driving up to the Club was a strange experience, traffic was extremely light, and you couldn't see the next set of traffic lights ahead of you. Even the miles of roadworks seemed totally unreal. Not a soul in sight.

At the Club I hurriedly got my gear in and turned the heater on. (I knew the others would expect to find it on, and I didn't want to disappoint them. And besides, it was bloody chilly in the Clubrooms.)

Beryl was doing another cheeseboard by putting a bird amongst flowers design on it. Finished it by the end of the session, and it looked magnificent. Maike was doing a rural scene comprised from several photographs she had taken in the local area. There is a kangaroo sitting under a tree in the foreground, and some more in the distance across the paddock. Magnificent gums all around. I can visualise the finished product, and I can assure you it's another "Maike Masterpiece" in the making.

I warmed up by doing a saying on the lid of my Pyrography work box before the others even arrived. Then I finished my small two bears picture using the dot technique. I had to rework this after some critique of the shading. And I must admit, it did look better as a result. Then I did a simple hunting scene of a dog flushing a bird using the more traditional shading technique. This I got right first time, as everyone was satisfied with the result.

And Graham joined us a little late this morning, and proceeded to turn some "pens for the troops" instead of doing Pyrography. As this is a Victorian wide initiative by the woodturning fraternity, special permission was granted for Graham to turn his five pens to contribute to the program in support of our troops serving overseas.

As it turned out, Graham finished turning as we finished burning. [Notice that little double quip there?] So, we all packed up and went home through the sea of fog that was still about.

### **Events Calendar**

- 23<sup>rd</sup> -25<sup>th</sup> August - Timber, Tools & Artisan Show. At Melbourne Show Grounds, Ascot Vale.
- 21<sup>st</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> September - Ballarat Woodworkers show.
- 26<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> October - Goulburn Valley woodworkers show. This year will be held at the Macintosh Pavilion, Shepparton Showgrounds.
- 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> November - Eltham Woodworkers Exhibition