

The Eltham Woodworker



Reg Number A 0025947P

March 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 March, 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

Bunnings BBQ Fundraiser Results

Thank you to the members who assisted on the day. 100% attendance – magnificent. To be expected of course from EDWC members. A special thankyou to Loraine Kruger who once again provided excellent eskies and the use of a fridge to store the sausages overnight.

Unfortunately, this was not our most successful Bunnings Fundraiser. The customers attending Mill Park Bunnings were not in the usual numbers that we have come to expect. The supervisor at Bunnings, when signing us out, commented that they were losing customers to the new store at Mernda.

Despite this, with the great efforts of our members on the day, we managed to take \$1157.40 plus 1 laundry token! After expenses, the profit to the Club is \$663.75. With the sale of some leftover packets of sausages and cans of soft drink the profit should be just over \$700.

The Club needs a volunteer to take over the organisation of the next Bunnings fundraiser.
Tony Orbe.

Special Report – Visit to Leith Park Men’s Shed 13/2/2019 - Steve Mitchener

I was approached by Barry Lay to come out to the Leith Park Men’s Shed and teach one of the fellows there how to use a Scrollsaw. Always loving a chance to show off my skills on this versatile machine, I accepted. Barry told me this gentleman was 100 years old, and keen to learn. (Well, I know straight away I only believed one of these two facts to start with.)

On the appropriate date I gathered my required equipment and headed off to Leith Park. I gathered Barry up just after I entered, and we drove up to where the men’s shed is located. At the shed I was introduced to Bill, another Leith Park resident who worked in the men’s shed. From there the three of us made our way the short distance to the residence of the gentleman I was there to instruct.

Don was a small fella, compared to my bulk, and the most affable bloke I had ever met. Barely had he said hello, and he was offering us a cuppa and a biscuit. (I hadn’t done anything, but I was being plied with food and drink. I am really liking this!) Whilst we were sipping our tea, he produced the card he got from the Queen congratulating him on his centenary. Now I believed two facts concerning him!

After the cuppa we went back to the shed and checked out the machine. It had been donated by the estate of Ivan Jones, a long time member of EDWC. It had seen some use, but was in good condition, and worked well for a “cheapy” machine.

I quickly set it up, tensioned it properly, squared it up, and did some quick little cuts. Then I ran through what Don needed to know to operate it safely. I could tell by his questions that he really was eager to get down to it. Bill and Barry were planning where to build a small table so they could set him up and let him get to it.

I left him with some prepared materials, and a small pile of easy patterns to copy and use. As I was thrust out the door, I felt my time at Leith Park was at an end, as I had served my purpose. But that’s O.K., there’s another scroller out there now..... my work is done.

Hand Tool Workshop - Martin Lawley

Today was the first workshop for hand tools. It was well attended with everyone being able to take part in the sharpening and setting plane blades (irons as some of us would call them). The most important part was nearly everyone bought one or two of their planes in see how to tune the base and set the plane up for use. Next month we will carry on with the correct way to use a plane and also demonstrate the sharpening and use of chisels. If time permits we will start the way to cut or rather chop a mortice.

Wes brought in several different planes one was interesting as it was a Kunz, one of the main differences is that the blade is adjusted by two knurl nuts similar to a spoke shave and the blade is a lot shorter than a Stanley no4 (Bailey) and a lot lighter. As well as the planes Wes also brought in a sharpening system, which I would like to see again, as one could set the correct angle required for the grinding process before the honing process. I did bring in a Vertas honing jig, which can be set for many different angles.

Lorraine also brought in a plane which was a German jack plane the main feature about this plane is mouth which is situated forward of centre which gives this plane a great balance and an unusual appearance but a good hand position in the working of the plane.

Tony brought in a no7 jointer (trying iron) plane which is the first on that I have seen for long long time and it is a long plane. We had quite a few different types and makes of planes the members brought in, which was great to see.

The next Hand tool workshop is on the 4th Monday of March 25th I hope to see you there.

Around the workshop – March 2019 - Charles Camera

It has been a busy time for committee members that are involved with new member applications and processing. In the last couple of months, we have welcomed Vincent Galante, Ron Rowe, Iraj Maghasedi, Agostino D'Alfonso, Robert Leenders, Jim Stockton, Russell Wanklyn, Andrew Snow, Matthew Clarke, Peter Goddard and Shirley Dwyer. Several more are in the pipeline. This is a particularly large number to put through our strict machine competence and safety training at the one time with thanks to Dave Mitchell and Martin Lawley who shoulder most of the burden. Opposite is “newby” John Leenders with his first project.



Our expanding numbers is a great change from some years ago when we had a steadily declining membership, typical of woodworking clubs throughout Australia. The general decline has no doubt been exacerbated by the stunning rise and popularity of the Men's Shed Movement which in contrast has had spectacular growth. EDWC has been proactive in regards to recruitment and we have a generally younger and overall more diverse cross section than most woodworking clubs. In addition, our activities span a much wider field of crafts than most clubs that are often more inclined to be focused on single interests such as turning or cabinet making. What other club offers turning, scroll sawing, pyrography, carving, instrument making and toy construction?

One of the constant struggles for members is obtaining quality timber. We recently however had an opportunity to acquire chainsaw milled, air dried slabs from a large collection belonging to a local woodworker. The owner has been forced to quit most of his stock and it was a rare opportunity to acquire large pieces of a variety of species of mostly very good quality wood and at low prices. The seller, Brian, may still have some availability and invites inquiries on 0409 024 482. Opposite is Barry Lay and Brian in front of some of the timber, discussing a lifetime in woodworking.





Sadly, many of us have lots of seldom used hand tools languishing at home and of this I am certainly an offender. Martin Lawley has begun a program to increase interest, knowledge and skills in hand tools with the first attendees in the photo opposite. Martin believes that hand tools are often not considered for smaller tasks and in using machines the setup time and fuss is often far more effort than the quick application of a finely tuned hand plane or hand saw.



Inspired by Martin's enthusiasm I have begun sharpening and tuning all my planes – after going through them I realised that over the years I have collected more than 19 and that's after giving some away. Many are wooden planes I bought on weekends in Beijing whilst on work assignments. Buying them was irresistible even though I thought little about their usefulness as they looked nice and were very cheap. Some of the models looked very similar to the very expensive and excellent locally made HNT Gordon models <https://hntgordon.com.au/> but I never imagined that they would be nearly as good until my recent effort to fettle and sharpen them proved otherwise. I urge everyone to try using really sharp planes, chisels, spoke shaves, scrapers etc and discover another dimension to woodworking and best start with Martin's workshops.

Next Wednesday's meeting will feature a talk by one of our members, Alwyn Wainwright, who will recount his experiences using the Gifkins Dovetail jig. The club has recently acquired one of these (Australian made) wonder jigs which will be of great interest to box makers. They are also applicable to some smaller cabinet making projects.



Carving Group - 1/2/2019 - Steve Mitchener

We had a big and busy group today, and all working hard on their various projects. (When all the talking didn't slow them up and affect their concentration!)

Sandra was starting a new project. Making a sitting Pelican from a section of log. There was some discussion as to how to utilise the log, and resizing the photograph to suit the proportions of the log won out. Sandra sketched the shape out, and after bandsawing the excess off, started the shaping.

Maike was hand shaping her seal with file and rasps. And quickly realising what a big task it was.

Batoul was sorting out a stylised standing Cormorant onto a piece of Powton with Sandra's assistance. There was discussion about whether it was a penguin as Batoul claimed, or a cormorant. With the large webbed feet and elongated neck, Sandra and I won out with the Cormorant. (*Got to know your animals!*)

John Leahy was working on his Y shaped walking stick. Neil was refining his three legged stand.

The Nomad was working on his small version of the Fairfield Dog. And it's really starting to take shape and look the piece. (*And for those following the saga of Skittle, the fat legless bird: The poor bugger didn't make an appearance today, much less rate a mention in the conversation.*)

Rod decided to give his relief carving of a lazy bear a rest today, and tackle a more challenging project. I had brought along some Kauri Pine, the plans and patterns for my tall standing Gnome for Rod to try. Rod launched into the new project with enthusiasm, he marked out, bandsawed the shape, and took to the chisels. By then end of the day it was really taking shape, and Rod had learnt carving a small detailed piece is quite a challenge in itself.

In the few quiet moments between talking, advising and writing notes for this article, I worked on a short pudgy Gnome with peaked cap. He is nearing completion, so I have also started a tall Gnome with a different style of hat, and plan to give him moveable arms. (*Another first for a carving from this group.*) Just love a challenge, don't we Rod?

Scrollsaw Group – 2/2/2019 - Steve Mitchener

I wasn't expecting a big group today, having already received apologies from Maike, Beryl and Roz. All busy handling the essential chaos of life, no fun for any of them today. And my new recruit, also female, had also sent an apology as she was physically incapacitated and couldn't make it either.

But the talented ladies were well represented by Jennifer, who was with us cutting gaming pieces and 3D tokens for her home-made game. I believe it's based on a Scandinavian game, and looking at the intricate and detailed layout pyrographed onto the board, it's too complicated for an old wood worker like me.

Graham worked on more rings for his bottle holder, and then went back to working on a stand-by piece in the way of a trivet.

Tony was cutting out some full size compound cut Christmas decorations on the Club's Delta Scrollsaw. Carefully cutting the internal cuts, then cutting the external cut, then rotating 90 degrees and repeating, gave Tony some very credible 3D pieces plus bragging rights to take home.

I was compound cutting the last six chess pieces in a set I started a few years ago. Now I have finally finished those, I now have to make a chess board. But to round out my day, I cut some delicate topsy-turvy pieces in 3D style, and finished off cutting some small flat geared wheels for another project sitting at home on the creative back-burner.

Box Making Group – Steve Mitchener - 6/2/2019

A very busy group today, with Sandra fitting and assembling some small drawers she had started in 2018. (*Seems strange writing that, it's only been gone 5 weeks, and it seems so long ago already. Or is it only me?*)

Steve Hood was working on his big dovetails for the sides of his box. Having only finished one last session, the now more experienced dovetailer finished the other three today without a problem. Just needs to refine each of them slightly to get the nice tight gapless fit that all dovetail makers aim for.

Paul was machining and cutting some Tassie Oak to form the carcass of his box, and also working on some Apple Wood (we think) for the lid. The base insert will be a non-descript piece of ply, hardly worth mentioning.

And Frank Camera joined us for a while to machine up various recently purchased timbers to enable him to make boxes up at home. He had a couple of very nicely patterned pieces of Pear Tree for this purpose when he left.

Bernie was along to practise his skills on a small box. Started off with some dark wood, ran a slot for the base, then cut it up to size to make a small square box. Cut some Tas Oak with a mitre on the table saw, docked it to length to use as contrast angled corners longer than the sides to give it four little legs. While this was all drying after gluing, Bernie consulted with me how to do a lid. I suggested a series of quadrants cut from the rough edged piece he had for this purpose.

Bernie worked out the size and shape of the quadrants and carefully cut them on the Scrollsaw. (This caused minimal damage to the thick bark edge which was to be the feature of the lid.) This left Bernie with a little sanding to do before gluing the pieces together and fitting the 'drop in' flange to the underside thus completing the project. *(The final step is actually the finishing, but I enjoy the actual construction of a project more, so finishing doesn't count with me.)*

And while all this was going on, I managed to find a couple of hours to carve away at a couple of my little Gnomes. I had finished the dude with the cap (*see carving report 1.2.2019 from earlier*), so I completed the detailing of the Gnome on the Throne, and did some work on the currently arm-less Gnome which is next in the series. Wood work is so much fun!

Carving Group - 15.2.2019 - Steve Mitchener.

It's been a busy group today, many different people rushing about doing all sorts of things. For a start, we had Rod working on his Gnome. Throughout the day I suggested strategic improvements, and Rod beavered away to incorporate them. At the end of the session, he had a very presentable Gnome requiring a little sanding to finish it right off.

Sandra spent most of the day helping Batoul, and sorting out some layouts on her own projects. Details of which I neglected to note, that's how busy it was.

Neil worked on his incense burner for a while, then went to the machine room to work on his cello back in Cedar. This is one of those "ongoing projects" all we busy woodworkers have in our lives.

Alwyn started another Angel in Jelutong. Said he had done it before several times. Then Maike chimes in that she had purchased one for a dollar at her local Op Shop. *(I have sighted the Angel in question, and as it is unsigned, we can't be sure it's one of Alwyn's. But what are the chances?)*

Dave the Nomad was here, but Skittle was still in the shed. Dave showed us his finished Fairfield Dog, and it looks absolutely great. I have asked him to bring it to the next meeting for show and tell. He then used the heat bender to shape some ply to make a salad fork, and clamped the pieces up in a shaped jig to dry out.

John Leahy was working on a small wood spirit carving to use as a handle in another of his walking sticks. Using a smaller spirit made by Max Jensen as a model to work too.

Maike was shaping her seal, and making some visible progress.

Batoul was working on her Cormorant, that currently looks like Daffy Duck on steroids. *(It's even uglier than the fat birds that were the rage here last year.)*

Maurice popped in after lunch and worked on a spoon. I managed to spend some time carving details into a Musk Ox Family, and working on the next Gnome I am making. So much going on, and I am glad to be here to see it all.

Box Making Group – 16/2/2019 - Steve Mitchener.

I managed to get here early and start on some more detail carving on my Musk Ox family. If I keep chipping away, I will get them all finished.

I was soon joined by Steve Hood who was cutting rebates for the base in the side of his dovetailed box. It proved a little tricky because he hadn't allowed enough depth of timber under the dovetails to accommodate the slots. But as usual, I had the answer to the problem. And when it's assembled, no-one will know what we did or how we did it. Clever us!

Tony assembled a small Huon Pine box that will have a stepped rebated base, and a nice contrasting Myrtle top. It will look very nice when finished.

John Mentha was here flattening a circular Redgum top for a small coffee table.

Barrie Cole visited for a while to gather some advice and suggestions. (Just as well I have copious quantities of both on hand.)

Maike worked with me to make and fit a frame to a carving of a Koala in a tree. It was a high relief carving, and some assistance from me was required to ensure the Koala sat just right in the frame. And the finished result was so good, Maike cut up some timber she had brought along to prepare for framing of her glorious Pyrographic works.

Paul dropped in to collect some timber for Healthability projects to work on at home.

And Bruce dropped in to drill a hole. Urgently required for a family project at home.

And just as we were about to close shop for the day, David and Janette Green popped in to machine up some timber. (There was some urgency, as it was a job Janette wanted done, so David was 'under orders.) So, I carved a little more and chatted to Janette as she knitted, while Dave laboured away in the machine room. And when David had finally finished processing his repurposed timber, we all packed up and went home. Everybody was happy.

Pyrography Group - 24/2/2019 - Steve Mitchener

I knew it was going to be a small group today, and as Beryl pointed out when she arrived: "it's a case of quality, not quantity." (*I'll go with that.*)

We had a short visit from Shirley, our newest group member, who popped in to complete some paperwork, gather some materials, and then slip off to tend to other things.

Beryl, as mentioned, was here. Her plan was to put a design onto some Acacia coasters (set of 4, \$6.00 at K-mart apparently), but our usual method of transferring designs didn't work on the hard wood. So Maike came to the rescue and hand drew the design on one for Beryl. Then Beryl found Acacia hard to burn, so doing the one coaster took all day. (*NOT part of the plan!*)

Maike was creating a picture of water lilies and dragon flies. The two picture elements being taken from separate sources and combined freehand to create another "Maike Masterpiece". Trouble is, this process took up to lunchtime to complete, so not a lot of actual burning took place in the rest of the day. (*We love our long lunches!*)

I was working on the Owl I started in the last session. I got it finished, and now need to find an appropriate message or saying to add into the free-space to make this a meaningful piece. This isn't

a problem, because I either have one already in my collection of wisdom, or I'll just make something up that suits the situation.

I spent the rest of the day doodling on some scrap, practising Maiké's dot technique. It's a great way to "build" a picture. I found it very relaxing and therapeutic actually. No pressure to follow lines accurately, as you are actually only filling spaces. Easy. With practise....

Events Calendar

- 14th – 16th June - The Australian Woodturning Exhibition. Kingston Town Hall.
- 23rd -25th August - Timber, Tools & Artisan Show. At Melbourne Show Grounds, Ascot Vale.
- 21st – 22nd September - Ballarat Woodworkers show.
- 26th – 27th October - Goulburn Valley woodworkers show. This year will be held at the Macintosh Pavilion, Shepparton Showgrounds.
- 9th, 10th November - Eltham Woodworkers Exhibition