

# The Eltham Woodworker



Reg Number A 0025947P

**September 2019**

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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 4<sup>th</sup> September, 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

## Point to ponder....

**Do not let what you can't do, stop you from doing what you can do.**

## Heads Up.

The November meeting will be moved to the 30th October to avoid clashes with the Exhibition.

Please note the change of the deadline for the 'November' newsletter – it will now be Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> October.

### ***President's Report - August***

It was good to get back into the swing of things having just spent 6 weeks in Europe and Broome, mind you the weather is a bit of a challenge!!!

Our first big event of the year is on Sunday 25th at Hurstbridge for the Wattle festival. The weather forecast is not that good but it is always a good day out for members and an excellent promotion for the Club.

Great to see a good turn out from members and partners at Sinners restaurant last Saturday. This seems to be a popular venue and is very good value for money. Don't forget that our Club Christmas lunch will also be held here on Saturday 30th November. Thanks to Dave Mitchell for organizing this.

Hopefully by the time you read this newsletter the roller blinds will have been installed in the workshop. Nillumbik Council have also cleared the drain at the back of the Club but repainting of the workshop is still on their to do list!

Everything is under control for the Exhibition with all the Wes's workshop items complete and all but one of the raffle prizes finished. Information has been supplied to Eltham Rotary for inclusion in the Eltham Festival booklet.

We are still getting regular enquiries for membership and Peter Davey has been working on updating our membership list. Not an easy job!

The committee has been working on the process to be adopted in relation to the Men's Shed issue. In line with the general wishes expressed at the July General Meeting we have decided on the following action: We will conduct an email poll of all members asking them to respond to a specific question by a certain date. Members who do not have email will be given a hard copy form for voting. The final details of the poll are still being considered and we will inform all members as soon as possible.

John Winkett. President

### ***2019 Annual Exhibition - Geoff Oliver***

This year's exhibition is fast approaching.

#### **Exhibit Entries**

All entries to be submitted by the 30<sup>th</sup> October

#### **Set-up Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> 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 8<sup>th</sup> 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 9<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> 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.

### **Club Lunch 1/8/2019**

When Dave put the call out for another Club Lunch to be held at Sinner's Restaurant in South Morang, I put my name down straight away. Even though it shortened my Saturday at the Club, I was prepared to make that great sacrifice just so I could eat at Sinner's. A shameful admission I know, but there you have it. I would rather eat good food than do woodwork.

And another factor was that from the Club I was closer to Sinner's than from home. So, for me, it was a no-brainer. A couple of hours up at the Club, then down to Sinner's for lunch. Delightful. With their friendly staff, great service, fantastic food, and good company, what more could a person ask for? [*That's a rhetorical question, because the answer is obvious. Nothing!*]

And thirty-one other people also thought the same because that's how many others (members and their spouses) who joined me there. There was plenty of talking, a little drinking, and absolutely plenty of great food. There were happy people chomping on pizzas, pastas, grills, seafoods and parmas, and that was the only time it got a little quiet.

I enjoyed every mouthful, and am already looking forward to the next event. Yes, we are planning to come back in November. So, make sure you get your name down, right after mine.

### **The Great Eltham Library Display – 22/8/19 – 23/9/19 – Steve Mitchener**

This was first brought up at the carving group, and we all thought it would be a great idea to do a display. The focus was to put the EDWC into the public eye just prior to our own big event in November. Sandra was prepared to take the lead, find out all the details and requirements, and coordinate the whole thing. Then we would invite Club members to participate and supply entries. This portion of the plan went extremely well and was successful beyond our expectations.

Then came the day we were to do the set-up and bring our plans to fruition. We found that parking at the Library at that hour of the morning was chaotic to say the least. Some of our contributors couldn't even park close, and had to lump their pieces quite a distance. And having to physically help to get them into the Library, I can attest some were very heavy and/or awkward to boot.

Then we found our "Display Facilitator" had been changed because the person we had been dealing with was now on leave. As a consequence, the rules were changed. We weren't allowed 'hanging space' around our display, that was solely for the 'artist' that was sharing our display period. This was NOT what we had been told right from the start.

And we couldn't hang them within our area. That wasn't allowed.  
We couldn't put them on the fireplace mantle. That wasn't allowed.  
We had too many pieces that were alike. That wasn't allowed.  
The theme for our display was too disjointed. That wasn't allowed.

Do you get the feeling there was some tension rapidly building at this stage?

Sandra and I were both feeling cheated and misled, so we combined and badgered and harassed this woman over a short period of time into a suitable compromise situation. [*And I hasten to point out, that no people or animals were injured or harmed during this process.*]

- We would cull our display items to a more manageable number.
- We would limit the number of similar items.
- We could hang a couple of items in our area. (*There was no other way to display them, they were crafted as hanging pieces.*)
- We could display some works on the fireplace mantle.

- We would display dissimilar items in the display cases to conserve space.

Overall, we managed to construct a suitable, varied and interesting display. And the feedback from the people who have seen it so far, agree it is just that. Varied and interesting. And to my mind at least, very unlike the ‘art’ being hung all around us which seemed very repetitive in its nature. (*And I personally wouldn’t take any of it, even as a gift.*)

So please make the opportunity to go along to the Eltham Library between now and 23rd September, and view the Woodwork display and support the effort made by the woodworkers involved. Some of our EDWC people will be on hand at various times to answer questions from the public, and demonstrate some of our many varied skills. So, drop in and say “hello” at least.

And while you are there, view the “art” (*and I use that term very loosely*), that decks the walls around the perimeter of our display, and let me know what you think of it.

**Wattle Festival 25/8/2019 – Steve Mitchener, photos by Martin Lawley**



When I arrived on site the set-up was well underway. And with the new style marquees to erect, those on hand finished the set-up without any difficulty. (*Unlike the “old days” when we had the steel frame and canvas covered tent that seemed to take virtually ages to set-up. And I remember handling all that cold steel was finger numbing in the chill mornings.*) With four marquees erected, we had the displays and demonstrations set-up and ready long before the Festival actually started.

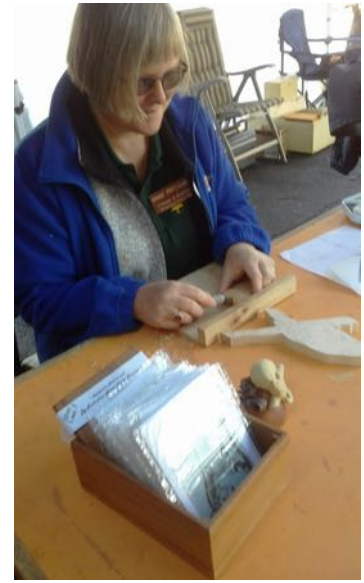
There seemed to be plenty of Members present to take turns at ticket sales, talk to the public, and demonstrate on the various machines and skills on display. We had Graham, Tony and Steve ‘rotating’ on the



lathe and making simple give-aways for the public.



Raman was here for quite a while giving away lengths of the fine shavings he was making with his many planes. Maike, Sandra and Rod were carving and chatting to many interested parties.



Scrollsaw churning out small amazement of the little kids and managed to give away forty two took quite a few home with me. I

And of course, I had my trusty reindeer this year for the adults alike. Through the day I of the little buggers, but still was just in a cutting frenzy.



And through the day we had for a visit and chat. This is great support for those brave enough to give their time and face the cold to make this a great day for the Club. And while we generated good publicity for the Club, created a lot of interest in woodwork, we also managed to sell quite a few tickets. I heard a sum of over \$500.00 mentioned, but this is ‘subject to confirmation’ by the Treasurer at a later date.

Club Members pop in and join to see, as it is another form of

Pack up went without a hitch, and a large group went off to the Club to unload. So, to all those that supported the event and participated in some manner, I thank you. It all helps to make it a fun day for those involved.

### Thursday Turners – Tony Orbe



Some time back, Peter Lucas contacted our club asking if we could help with a project – “Pens for the Troops”. The aim is to make pens, turned from Australian wood, to be given to our members of the Services currently serving overseas. Peter has had pen kits donated from different organisations to help him with this cause.

Peter recently attended one of our turning sessions and left us with twenty Slimline pen kits together with a material sleeve and small certificate for each on which to write our Club’s name, the turner’s name and type of wood and finish used. It was left to the pen turner to provide the wooden blanks for the pens.

Graham Skinner, Steve Hood and Tony Orbe have completed the task and, as you can see in the above photo, the pens are now ready to be delivered to Peter this week.



The other photo is of a 200 x 200 x 330 mm glued up pine block being turned into a cylinder. This will form the boiler section of a toddler's ride on steam engine currently being constructed in Wes's Workshop.

### ***Around the Workshop (World) – August 2019 - Charles Camera***

This month I am on the move so it is a little bit of Foreign Correspondent. I had thought that in being away there would be no report but I have found that there is actually much on which to comment woodworking wise in between changes of scenery so I have decided to share the experience

Firstly, on the way back from the unbelievably beautiful and heavily wooded Plitvice Lakes! in Croatia our guide related how sad it was that Croatia's biggest export was timber. Sad because they export timber to Italy and Germany at a low price and import furniture at a high price. Well I know another country that exports minerals at a low price and imports cars, refrigerators and TVs etc at a high price...normal really. But wow have they got a lot of trees in their wet regions! I have never seen such big birches which unlike the ubiquitous, nearly dead spindly excuses in our far too dry gardens, they are here, surprisingly large.

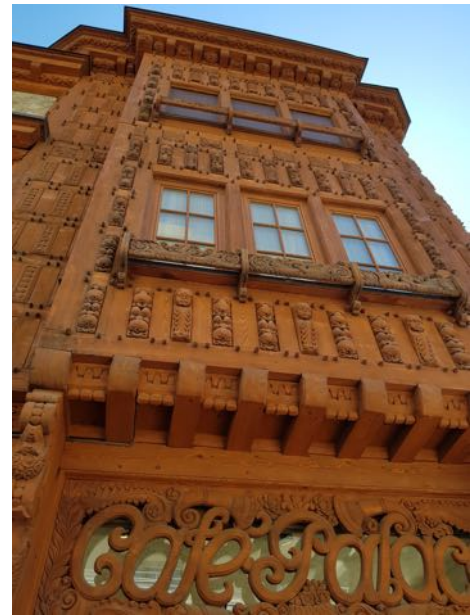


In the old town of Split I stumbled across a woodcrafts shop with some stunning articles mostly made of olive wood. Olive wood is very scarce in Oz especially as most of it is still producing olives. In Europe there are uncountable olive trees, many of which are 300 to 800 years old. At some stage these trees become unviable and turn into a resource for wood so olive wood is definitely "a thing". Worryingly the number of trees turning into wood has greatly accelerated in recent years as the destructive disease, xylella fastidiosa which is actually a bacterium, has swept through Turkey into Greece and Southern Italy and is decimating trees in large areas.

Olive wood is amazing for the texture and colour and the shop had some truly beautiful flat items such as serving boards/cutting boards (that would make Lorraine Kruger envious) but also huge turned items such bowls and what looked like buckets, well size wise anyway. The owner spoke good English until I drilled him on how the large "turned items" were made and after a shrug and an "of course I am too busy to make them myself" seemed to have difficulty explaining much more. Check out the photo and it is clear that they are not all symmetrical as per off a lathe so some sort of giant CNC must lurk in the background somewhere.



Moving on to Switzerland I noticed that there is no shortage of rock. In one place the local mountain top was over 2,460 metres high and I wondered how many building blocks one could hue from such a resource before flattening the excessively rough terrain. Not surprisingly, many of the buildings in the nearby town were made of stone blocks however an enormous amount of wood, right over the top in fact, was also used with it. One of the hotels we saw had a massive wall in solid wood. The nearby sports field had a huge facade also made out of curved timber and everywhere we went the doors weighed " a tonne". When too much wood is not enough, a large note in our hotel offered a lovely pillow filled with pine wood shavings 'for a more relaxing and deeper sleep'. A Google of the brand found a website where they are sold at 255 Swiss Francs each. That in our money is around \$500 .....and we chuck our shavings away!!!!?????



I may not get a chance to add any more after our next move so I will leave it at that for now.

Your foreign correspondent.

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

Another great day with hand tools, where we, today, started to put into practice what had been demonstrated and practised over the last few months with the making of a bench hook. The process is straight forward, or at least I thought that it would be but after a couple of restarts on squaring of end grain everything went well. One thing that almost everyone forgot was 6 screws but yours truly saved the day as I had put a large handful in my toolbox this morning. The next job is to remove the screws after the glue has dried and redrill the screw holes out to 8mm and glue dowel into the holes, which will be done at the member's convenience. The next hand tool workshop will be in September on the 23<sup>rd</sup> and the topic will be using a hand held router to make mouldings with 2 or 3 pieces of timber.

### **Carving Group – 2/8/2019 - Steve Mitchener**

Sandra spent most of the day working on her Eagle. Near to the end of the day Sandra brushed a coat of oil onto a large Huon Pine piece to finish it for the Eltham Library display. It runs from 22<sup>nd</sup> August till 23<sup>rd</sup> September. While we had the oil out, I put the last coat on the new Club sign.

Maike was carving an Owl in pine. Rod was working on Joseph. A bit more detailing and some sanding, and he'll be done. Only fourteen left to go..... Neil was working on Violin bits and pieces. Some are for the Library display which is drawing closer. Or did I already mention that..? Alwyn was putting the finishing touches to his Green Man Door Knocker. Then he spent some time in the other room cutting some timber for small boxes to make at home.

And David “the Nomad” Green was working on a stick he is planning to make into a Largaphone. (*I don't know if that's spelt right, it's not in my dictionary. Anyway, it's just a big rattle made from a stick and lots of bottle tops.*) (*If you drink a lot, you got to find something to do with all those bottle tops. OOOOPS! There's another rumour I've just started....*)

And the Nomad also spent some time (*not much*) working on the bowl of a spoon.

And we had Wes with us for a while, checking for nails in wood before he started cutting it up at home. And I whittled at a small chain in some soft pine I was starting. I had spoken to Rod about it last session, and brought it in to show him how I go about it.

### **Scrollsaw Group – 3/8/2019 – Steve Mitchener.**

Graham was an apology for this session.

Beryl was again cutting reindeer, and still having trouble with the deep cuts. And being the gentleman, I am [*Now there's a dubious statement if I ever wrote one!*], I helped by cutting seven of them for her. Thus, only leaving Beryl the much easier shallow cuts to finish them off. And at the end of the day, as Beryl was packing up her gear, I cut out the last four so as to end the torture. The end of this saga is that Beryl sent me a picture showing the herd of 20 reindeer, complete with little ribbons and bells around their necks, on Sunday the 4th. Job done, completed, finished, ended, over.

Maike came with a laptop and spent some time with Sandra listing the 50 odd exhibits for the Eltham Library display. It runs from 22<sup>nd</sup> August to 23<sup>rd</sup> September, go check it out. Then Maike spent some time pyrographing the mirror image of the dragon she just completed, and sold, last week. Said this was the male, as it wasn't as ‘pretty’ as the previous one.

Roz continued to work on the final assembly of her Scrollsaw table under my guidance. Got it finished today. Going to try it out at home and see if any tweaking is required. Tony prepared and cut some jigsaws, and glued an Eagle photo down for cutting at a later date. Then cut a simple frog puzzle out also.

Busy as I was, I also cut some rings out for a potpourri container I am working on. (*Well, I am now I have started it.*)

### **Box Making Group – 7/8/2019 - Steve Mitchener**

While this was actually a ‘box making session’, Sandra spent most of the time assembling a large easel for her Huon Pine piece going on display at the Eltham Library from 22<sup>nd</sup> August till 23<sup>rd</sup> September. I was very liberal and profuse with my insight into construction of this item, which is just as well, as Sandra didn't have a clue.

Eric Gunstone, new member, dropped in for some insight and information on box making. Knowing a lot more when he left than when he came, Eric promised to come back and tackle a box or two to utilise his new-found knowledge and enhance his skill set.

Steve Hood was working quietly on his Walnut boxes. He prepared his timber, cut his rebates, and trimmed his edges. Then decided to commit and “go whole hog”, and cut his boards to his box sizes. Then there was definitely no turning back.

I started my day by installing the new Club sign out front. Forgive me for being biased, prejudiced or whatever, but it looks fantastic out there in front of the Club. Once the euphoria and elation had passed, I settled down and spent a few hours calmly carving my Robot in Kauri Pine.



### **Carving Group – 19/7/2019 - Steve Mitchener**

Maike was an apology, and I believe Alwyn is away.

Sandra used the table saw to cut rebates in some recycled timber to make a picture frame out of. Then worked on old piece of Huon Pine to make a Wood Spirit or Green Man from. Its shape lends itself to a flowing style of beard.

The Nomad drilled a hole in his Ukulele front, then took a photo of Martin's truck. This was all he managed, because shortly after he went home exhausted.

Neil showed us a bookmatched Viola back in Cedar. The grain in it looked fantastic. Said it was to be a 2020 project. Then after a talk with Sandra, he slipped off home to finish decorating a small Ginger Jar required for the Eltham Library Display we are doing.

Rod was keen to do another little Gnome for a friend. So, after he marked it out, I showed him how to cut all the sides of the carving blank on the Scrollsaw. Once that was done, he started to carve it out. Rod also showed us Joseph in all his coloured glory. A very nice piece.

I spent most of my day breaking down timber and machining it up for the give-aways for the Wattle Festival and our Exhibition. This means a lot of prep work for me, but the pay-off is in the amazement of the public and the kids when I pop a wooden animal out of a piece of wood. [*Last year it was swans, this year it's little reindeer.*] Once I had my strips ready for marking, I settled down for a rest and to carve a small chain.

### **Box Making Group – 3/7/2019 – Steve Mitchener**

John Kinrade was attending a family function, so was an apology for box making. And Sandra was absent as she was planning to attend the Club Lunch later at Sinner's. (So was I, so see the later report.)

I had a good run up to the Club, so quickly settled down and started marking out my compound reindeer cut-outs for the Wattle Festival. Steve Hood was rounding the edges of a box in ply on the router. Lorraine was machining and cutting down timber for a cupboard she was building. (*And a cupboard is really just a box on steroids laying on its side... so I was cool with that.*)

Andy was machining a leg for the work bench he is building. It's a pretty hefty leg, so it must be quite a sturdy bench. And Albert was back working on his bathroom project. Bit of chaos at his place at the moment..... And John Mentha did a quick "pop in and pop out" to do some urgent machining.

And it's just as well we were a small group today. I pulled the plug about 11:30 so some of us could head for Sinner's for lunch. I think this is the first time I have ever ended a group before noon. I'm usually a 3:30 or 4:00 o'clock sort of guy.....

### **Events Calendar**

- 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