

# The Eltham Woodworker



Reg Number A 0025947P

**August 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 7<sup>th</sup> August, 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

## Hurstbridge Wattle Festival

Yes, another 12 months has past, so keep Sunday 25th August free as we will be at Hurstbridge. All members going please wear club uniform and name badges. We will be assembling at the clubrooms at 8:00am to take the equipment up to the festival for those who will be providing the transport. The festival will be running from 10:00am until 4:00pm. If you can help in anyway there is a sheet in the club rooms calling for volunteers. If you can attend for an hour or two it would be appreciated.  
Martin Lawley

P.S. If don't have a name badge please let Dave M or myself know as soon as possible.

## Christmas In August Event

By popular demand I have been asked to arrange another club lunch at Sinners Restaurant where we held the last years real Christmas function. Corner of Plenty Rd and McDonalds Rd South Morang, near Spotlight.  
The date will be **Sat 17th August at 12 noon.**

You need to let me know if you and/or your partner are attending by 12<sup>th</sup> August so I can firm up our booking as they may need to put on extra staff. You can let me know at the August General Meeting or by email.

They have a \$10 menu with about 8 choices or you can order from the standard menu and I will not be collecting deposits for this one.

If you do not arrive by 12:30 (unless you let me know early), I will let the management have our unused spaces for other patrons.

The notice on this one was short as I had to fit in with our other Commitments, (Whittlesea Show, Wattle Festival Exhibition etc) and our newsletter dates.

I will be also organising our real Christmas function at the same place on Sat 30<sup>th</sup> Nov for Lunch. Can you put it in your calendars? I will provide further info closer to the date.

Dave Mitchell, [dave1980@netspace.net.au](mailto:dave1980@netspace.net.au)

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

**You give but little when you give of your possessions.**

**It is when you give of yourself, that you truly give.**

*Mentor Monday Report - Dave Mitchell*

*Hand Tool Workshop - Martin Lawley.*



The workshop topic of hand cut dovetails, was a very successful one with 10 members in attendance. Many thanks to Keith Wade for giving up his time to demonstrate the art of cutting dovetails. Keith's demonstration of how to cut dovetails was most informative and the practical part was the way in which it was put into practice with all present cutting their first dovetails with quite a great deal of success. The general thought by all present was that the first



thing was to go home and practise and practise to make a near perfect joint.



So, at our exhibition in November we hope to see many boxes, drawers and anything else that could involve the practical use of dovetails after today's demonstration and practical lesson in cutting. There are a few photos of today's workshop which show everyone's head down marking out and cutting.

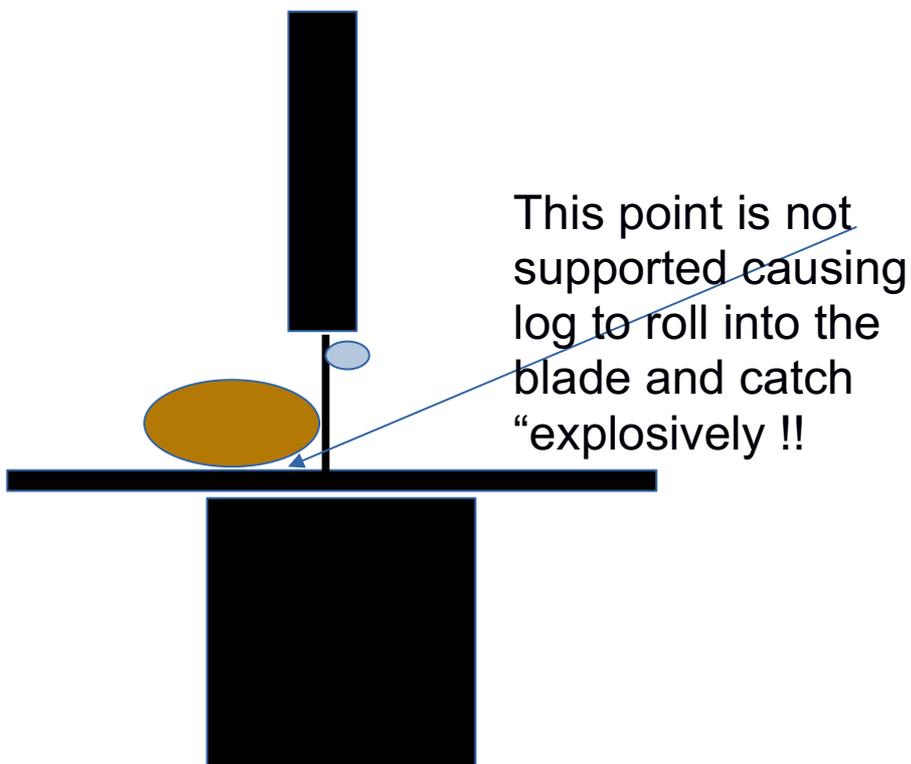
Once again, many thanks Keith.

Our next hand tool workshop is on the 26<sup>th</sup> of August and we will be making a bench hook, we will be using some of the plywood in the container.

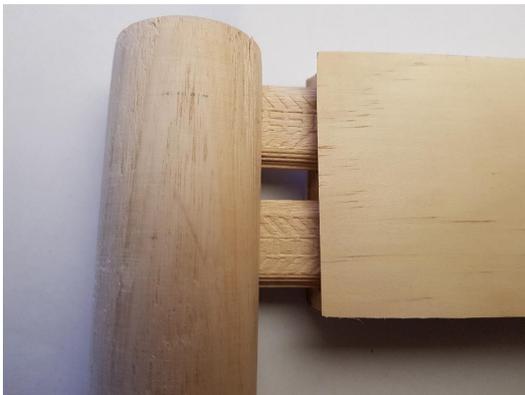
### ***Around the workshop – August 2019 - Charles Camera***

In the quest to keep members safe there is always room for improvement based on workshop events (mishaps?) during the month. This month I became aware of two occasions when large rounds of timber stock were offered up to the large bandsaw for cross cutting. **THIS IS EXTREMELY DANGEROUS** and having done the same pre-club a very long time ago (before getting some wisdom) I can guarantee that no one would do this twice! The reason is that the front of the log is totally unsupported and the blade pulls it down, ie rotating it and digging in with very spectacular results.

It is possible to saw round shapes **BUT** it needs special jigs which we do not have at present. If you have such a job to do seek help from experienced woodworkers as there are other ways to do it – eg with a hand saw.



Now some good news. The club has at last purchased a Festool mortising machine and members will be able to use it for a wide variety of applications after training – initially from Martin Lawley who is learning the finer points on it right now but soon from a number of other trainers. The tool is very little different to a biscuit joiner but requires a little more care – and must be treated very carefully as it is a very expensive item. I have for some years been using floating tenons and have made a number of tables, cabinets, wooden boxes, and even recently joined a ukulele neck to the body with ridiculous ease compared to traditional methods. One of our mentoring group attendees has recently used floating tenons on a three legged stool that he is making. He turned the legs, cut two mortises at 60 degrees into each leg then cut matching mortises into each rail. The ends of the rails were rounded on the spindle sander to achieve a tight fit to the leg and with 12 dominos glued in, the result is plain to see in the pictures opposite.



Are there any competent carpet layers in the club?? The club has carpet squares enough to lay in the kitchen. These are a gift from Slocum Carpets Eltham via the good grace of Barry Lay who negotiated on our behalf. So now they need laying and if anyone can join a working bee please contact John Winkett. Slocum also have many more floor boards mostly in bamboo which are also going begging – these are good for home shelves or if you do not mind mixed colours, good for a floor in your workshop.

Steven Hood has advised of an offer of half price huon pine timber sent out to members of the AMSA. Whilst of interest price wise, very cheap, it is for large amounts eg one cubic metre at several thousand dollars. There is a lot of wood in that volume but we would need to have a large number of members buy in to make it worthwhile or feasible. If, however anyone wishes to pursue it further please contact Steve.

I will enjoying some hot weather for a bit and look forward to seeing everyone early September when I expect there will be a large number of items ready for the annual exhibition.....yes not far away so get to it.

Oh, one more thing. I am not the tidiest of people but I am never going to achieve the level of neatness and organisation in this clip. Click on this link sent to me by Peter Davey who is suffering from tool envy. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j6zkRCRT4Y4&feature=youtu.be>

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

This day started off with Barry Cole popping in and using the spindle sander on his Rose Box. This item is really taking shape and coming along very well.

Steve Hood was working on a series of three boxes made from Black Walnut. The timber was showing some very nice features in the grain.

Sandra worked on her Huon Pine box, adding a thick base to give it a shadow line effect when sitting on a bench. Also cut to size a base for the Silky Oak Box, then proceeded to break down some timber. This all done, Sandra then spent some time on her Eagle in preparation to fitting legs to it in the future.

As I wasn't being overworked today, I managed to get some work done on some of my little carvings. (*I always bring something to do, in case it is quiet for me. And while I can watch others working for hours, I would rather be doing something myself.*) When the Box Making concluded for the day, I trimmed the new Club sign to length by hand, and finished the painting. The next step is sealing and weatherproofing it prior to hanging.

### **Carving Group – 5/7/2019 - Steve Mitchener**

Maike and Rod were both apologies for today's session.

Sandra was making eyes for her Pelican from an Alpaca's toenail. (*I believe this was legally sourced and not poached from an unsuspecting animal.*) Animal toenails are very tough, so Sandra found out very quickly, and this task wasn't as easy as you would have thought. Finally done with that, Sandra worked on a small relief face carving, and then went on to working on her Eagle.

Batoul machined up some Cypress for a project, and chatted on many things carving related. I heard the Nomad is away, and as he isn't here, that doesn't surprise me.

I came across a carving pattern for a single lace-up boot the other day. So, I decided to carve a pair, because after twenty years in the boot trade, I know they always come in pairs. I am using some Kauri Pine scraps from my shed as this is another "small" project for me.

Once carving finished for the day, I stayed and put the first coat of sealer on the new Club sign. The start of the end. Or is it the 'end of the beginning?' Or possibly the 'last act, of this particular drama.' Maybe it's even 'the last leg of a short walk.' It's definitely one of the above, or something similar.

### **Scrollsaw Group – 6/7/2019 – Steve Mitchener.**

It was quite a different day for me in the Scrollsaw group today. Had a few cutters working, a couple of visitors, and I spent most of the day helping Roz build a portable table for her Scrollsaw. Well, we made a good start, didn't quite get it finished. Next time.

Maike fixed a couple of strips to the back of a circular pyro picture so it could be hung. Then quickly raced off to do other things. Beryl was still labouring over the reindeer, and eventually abandoned them to do a compound cut religious sign.

Tony was doing more compound cutting. He cut out a Mexican and a burro sleeping under a cactus. (*From one side you see the Mexican, from the other you see the burro. It's a clever little illusion.*) Graham was working on his trivet in Mahogany.

Frank Camera and Keith Hawkins both popped in to cut some timber, and just as quickly popped out again.

And apart from four quick cuts for Maike, I didn't cut anything today. But it was fun working with Roz. So, I guess I am lucky I am retired and have all next week to catch up.

Ooops, forgot. I am going down to my brother's next week to help him with some building work. But that's O.K. We will have great fun, cut timber and spread sawdust all over the place, and build what we want to in the process. I guess I'll have to catch up the week after that ....  
....or maybe the week after that... ...just as well I am retired...!

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

Batoul is now away enjoying the weather in Italy, while the rest of us are here enjoying the Australian weather, making chips, and enjoying our woodwork.

Sandra is working on her Eagle. Maike is working on a Dove on a Cross. Alwyn is working on the knocker for his Green Man door knocker project. Getting to the final stages now.

David, a.k.a. the Nomad, was working on his wooden lock and spent some time carving the bowl of a spoon. Rod was working on Joseph for his nativity scene. Looks a lot less like a Monk now, and more like a Middle-Eastern Gentleman. (That's the carving, not Rod. He looks the same.)

Barry Lay brought his mate Chris in, and they did some work in the machine room. And Rado popped in to do some electrical work for the instrument group. (*Actually, took it home, fixed it, and brought it back. Don't get service like that anywhere else.*)

I worked on my little back-packer, four joined rings, and my pair of mini-boots. (*But not all at the same time. I am not quite that clever.*)

### **Box Making Group – 20/7/2019 - Steve Mitchener**

Today was a very busy day for this group. Not a long day by any means, but a busy and productive day for several of the Club members who came along. I spent most of my time with John Kinrade as we set up the table saw to cut mitres on his box pieces. Explaining what was happening and why, and showing him the safe way to do it, resulted not only in eight crisp, clean, and accurate mitre cuts, but also one happy woodworker when we were finished.

(*And the instructor wasn't displeased with the results either, I might add.*)

John Mentha spent his day sanding more bandsawn boxes on the spindle sander. Some tricky new designs, with one incorporating some unusual features in the timber. Steve Hood machined some timber to thickness on a home-built sled, and then routed some rebates into the resulting pieces.

Sandra worked on her Huon Pine Box and her Silky Oak Box. Paul Rushton popped in and machined some timber during a short visit. Adrian Desfontaines machined some timber for a coffee table. And we spent some time discussing various issues and construction techniques.

Albert MacGregor was splitting and machining some Snow Gum he had laminated to ply, so he could construct a bathroom sink unit with backer boards going up the wall. I put my two cents worth in and showed him the effects of "book-matching" the split timbers. Albert is now 'reconsidering' his design to incorporate some of the resulting timber features into the finished product. It will look absolutely fantastic.

And we had a short visit from Andy Snow to machine and sand some pieces. And Wes Weight came by to pick up some timber, and joined us for a coffee.

As I said in the opening paragraph, it was a productive day.

### **Pyrography Group – 28/7/2019 - Steve Mitchener**

Graham was an apology for this group, and Shirley is away enjoying warmer climes.

Beryl has advanced to some more serious Pyrography, and as a result has been moved up the group ranking by another notch. Last month's effort of 'a bird amongst the flowers' saw a similar upward movement, so it seems Beryl is on a roll. (*It's an internal group ranking system, there is no official Pyrography ranking system.*) Beryl is doing another cheese platter, and decorating it with a picture of a Rothschild Giraffe mother kissing the head of its newborn baby. (*This picture has been used extensively in advertising for many years. I recognized it because we had a print of the scene in my daughter's bedroom when she was very little. And I was much younger!*). Beryl used the 'dot technique' to do the picture, and in the space of the session did a very credible job of it. Well done Beryl.

Maike had cut out a large wingless dragon from a piece of ply, and used the 'line technique' and shading to add loads of detail. At the start of the session it was a shaped outline covered in pencil lines, at the end it was another work of art. And while the picture is complete and easily recognisable, the consensus is that some colour will make it much more vibrant and give it some impact. But Maike is the artist, and what happens next is her decision. (*Any group suggestions are not binding.*)

During the session, I made four of my quirky little signs. I just wanted to have some fun and enjoy the session. But the way Beryl is improving, I may have to get real serious about my output .....

And we had Dave Mitchell and two new members doing safety training in the machine room for a couple of hours. Once they left, and the ladies went off home, I put another coat of sealer on the new Club sign. [No machinery was required during this operation, so I was OK to be here on my own. Safety first remember! I am pleased to say that the end is in sight with this project.]

### **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