

The Eltham Woodworker



Reg Number A 0025947P

October 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 2nd 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

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 22nd October.

President's Report

Well our busy season has got underway very well. We had a very successful Wattle festival with over \$500 of raffle tickets sold. The weather was kind to us and we were able to demonstrate various skills to the public. A big thank you to all the demonstrators.

During the month of September, we had an exhibition and demonstration in the display area of Eltham library. This was a terrific PR effort for the Club and thank you to those who demonstrated, exhibited and particular thanks to Sandra.

You will shortly be receiving you raffle tickets to sell. Please make every effort to sell them as this is our major fundraiser for the year.

As I write this we are preparing for a special demonstration at Bunnings Eltham on Saturday 21st which will be followed by our sausage sizzle on Sunday 22nd. Thanks to everyone who has volunteered to help it is very encouraging to know that we have a full complement of members for each of the sessions. Peter Davey and Paul Rushton have been the organizers for this event. Thanks to both of you.

Everything is under control for the Exhibition but don't forget to put an entry in. We want to encourage as many people as possible to enter, whatever your skill level. It is very important that we show a good cross section of items from all levels of experience.

Very soon you will receive a communication from the Club about the Men's Shed issue. Can I encourage you all to read it and then record your vote?

John Winkett

2019 Annual Exhibition - Geoff Oliver

This year's exhibition is fast approaching.

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 Isabelle 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.

Xmas Lunch – Dave Mitchell

The Xmas 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.

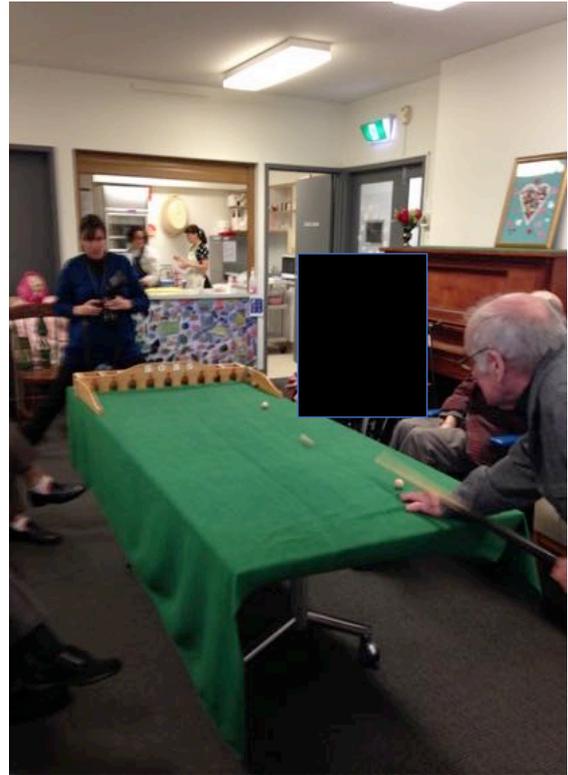
You will need to let me know that you are coming by the 14th of November as I need to let the restaurant know so they can arrange for staff. You will be able to have the \$10 lunch or order from the standard menu. I am not publishing the \$10 menu yet as it may change prior to November.

Healthability – Barry McDonald

After a couple of years hiatus, I once again had an enjoyable experience at Healthability, previously entitled the Eltham Community Health Centre. For some years now, we have been attending their Planned Activity Group sessions over a six week period, providing a little therapeutic respite to groups visiting the centre by means of assembling small wooden objects previously made by a number of our members.

Our presence at this facility is coordinated by Paul Ruston, having taken over the role from David Green, who continues to play a high-profile part in this activity. It really is rewarding to be involved. When arriving you are immediately impressed with the warmth of the place, the welcome received by the ladies running it, and the care they offer to the day visitors.

The success of this activity is credit to the many members who have been involved over a number of years, and to those who continue to make and donate the items involved.



We have developed a very comfortable familiarity with the centre, and they make it clear that our visits are highly valued. Of course the objective is to provide some interest and activity to those in care at the centre, but the benefit is not all theirs. As those from our club who participate regularly will attest, the benefit is also ours. Volunteering a small amount of time to a cause such as this is very satisfying, and contributing to community causes such as this one, provides immense personal reward.

It also provides an opportunity for some of our skilled artisans to display their capability. Like this bob set made by David Green, and the dovetail boxes made and provided by Barry Vaughan over many years. A number of members contribute by constructing items to be assembled by the day visitors, but its not only woodwork skills which are displayed. Regular attendee, David Russell has entertained the group with his poetry, and the ever reliable Mark Thompson gets them going with a sing along at the completion of sessions he attends.



Of course we have enthusiastic members not able to attend on all occasions, notably Graeme Deany who has participated over many years. It is pleasing to see some of our newer members now getting involved. Batoul Barbar and Maike Pritchard are participating and here, Maike and a client of the centre, Donald Nillbet combine to make a pencil case, one of six items the group had available to choose from this year.

Box Making Group – 4/9/2019 - Steve Mitchener

As it was a very small group today, it was very easy to manage and we all got some work done.

Steve Hood was working mainly on his Walnut boxes, and invested some time in making sides for another box out of stacked strips of ply.

Tony Orbe was cutting sheets of joined pine to make a decent sized toy box for a junior family member. Tony had a plan of the sizes he needed to cut from the sheets, and this was good to see. (I encourage people to plan their boxes as it can eliminate a lot of errors.) In this instance, a simple change to the cut sequence resulted in some sizeable offcuts that will allow another biggish box to be made later, and reduced the amount of unusable waste.

And even though I helped Tony put the sheets through the table saw, I still managed to spend some time carving details onto my little back-packer and done some work on my small chain as well.

Scrollsaw Group – 7/9/2019 – Steve Mitchener.

Beryl had a very different day at Scrollsaw group today. Unable to bring her Scrollsaw, Beryl worked on a small two-burner children's toy stove which was demountable and packed back into itself. There were a couple of small issues that we worked through, so Beryl could complete this clever little project at home.

Once that was sorted, Beryl spent some time drilling holes in some blocks to make some pepper grinders. This proved to be quite a task. Once it was done, Beryl marked out a nice pattern onto wood for her next Pyrography project.

Tony was cutting out the Eagle jigsaw he had prepared at an earlier session. He made steady progress and got more than halfway done. Graham cut out a simple jigsaw of Peter Rabbit, and then finished cutting his detailed trivet. It has been a long project because the wood was extremely hard.

Eric Gunstone got an introduction to Scrollsawing from me, and then spent the morning cutting practice lines on some scrap wood. Eric wants to cut some decorative pieces for some boxes he wants to make. I advised him it was a very ambitious aim, and would require quite a bit of practice before he could achieve it. He declined my offer to do it for him, (the quick solution), and said he would persist.

I got some time to cut a couple of nameplates for people, and do some decorative pieces of my own. So it was a good day for everybody.

Carving Group – 20/9/2019 - Steve Mitchener

Maike is away overseas visiting family, and expects to be back for the Exhibition. Sandra worked on her low relief forest scene with her Dremel.

Rod was working on Mary which is figure 2 of his nativity scene. He also brought in another gnome he has done for a mate, and has fitted the little fella out with glasses. Very nicely done. Alwyn was working on a spoon. Shaping the handle and roughing out the bowl. Neil was working on pieces for a Violin, and giving some good advice to the Nomad.

The Nomad had brought in his Ukulele to show the group. Advised us all he was going to make another one, and would do a lot better second time around. This one looked like a Ukulele, and would pass inspection (*with a substantial shove*), and when tuned was capable of playing a tune. [*Though I doubt anyone would recognise the tune!*] But I was impressed he had actually finished it, and he took

in all our derogatory comments with his ever-present smile. (*Which is just as well. Because with that Blackwood back it would have hurt quite a bit if he had bounced it off my noggin.*)

Dave then spent some time working on his set of salad server utensils. Then he foolishly asked the group if we thought they would sell at the Exhibition. Straight away I responded “they would sell a lot quicker if he put handles on the bloody things!”

So after taking the mickey out of my mate Dave, I spent some time refining the links of my chain. This little project is getting closer to the end.

But Dave had the last word as he exited the building. Said he would be away most of next month. He was going on a little trip, and then coming back to go on a longer trip. Two in one month!!! No wonder he’s called ‘the Nomad.’

Box Making Group – 21/9/2019 – Steve Mitchener

Sandra was an apology for the session today, but it turned out to be a full and very busy day for the mixed group.

First we had Geoff Oliver in to work on five boxes. I ended up that busy I only saw the first one, which was Blackwood with a hinged lid and a shallow drawer built into the front. As he left, Geoff said he only managed to work on four anyway. But that’s not a bad effort though.

Andy was in for a while working on his bench legs. This time he had a pair and cut some rebates in them and a hefty cross brace to match. Going to take some pounding this bench! John Kinrade assembled the carcass for his first box, and machined some timber for the next one in the series.

And we were joined by Roz looking to make a replacement carry-all for her camping utensils, which has given many years of valiant service and was nearing the end of the road. We discussed construction options (in ply) and Roz decided on slightly bigger dimensions, with a shallow drop-in sliding tray to fit in the top for the smaller items. (*Which we all know end up in the bottom of the box where you can’t find them!*) Next session we will cut wood and start the building, now we know exactly what’s wanted. See, it’s all in the planning.

And speaking of good planning, Tony has brought back all the pieces we cut in the last session. They have all been pre-drilled to take the Kregg screws for assembly. We sorted out the closing mechanism, and sorted the details of the 100mm deep tray to go across the top of the toy box. Tony cut and fitted the locating supports for this, and then we had a well-controlled and co-ordinated construction effort. When Tony left at 4:00 he had a completed box 700 x 400 x 520 with a fitted lid. A touch up with sandpaper, a couple of coats of finish, and the addition of the tray, and it’s done. Time to think about the next box...

And the Nomad popped in to trim to size and re-router the edges to the shelves of his two bedside tables he is working on. And somewhere in the midst of all this, I managed to get some carving done. Not a lot, just a little bit. But that’s OK, it’s only a little carving.....

Pyrography Group - 22/9/2019 - Steve Mitchener

I suspected this was going to be a small group today, but it turned out to be just a pair of us. Maike is away, and Shirley is just back, but unable to make an appearance. Both noted apologies for the day.

But the unexpected appearance of Dave with a new member Peter for router training, was an acceptable diversion. Beryl and I didn’t need the workshop, so both activities could proceed as planned.

Beryl finished a floral pattern on a circular platter, and then started to do another with a different pattern. There was also a paddle type server to have a turtle pattern put onto it, but we didn't stay that long.

I did a couple of signs with a fine point burner. It needs to be done with great precision and a gentle touch so it doesn't burn too much and become totally unreadable. It's actually a very fine and delicate symphony of eye and hand co-ordination and temperature control on an unresponsive and uncaring piece of wood in the hands of a maestro.....

Events Calendar

- 26th – 27th October - Goulburn Valley woodworkers show. This year will be held at the Macintosh Pavilion, Shepparton Showgrounds.
- 9th, 10th November - Eltham Woodworkers Exhibition