

The Eltham Woodworker



Reg Number A 0025947P

December 2018

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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 5th December, 2018 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

President's Report November 2018

Well another year nearly gone, why do they go so fast. 2018 was a special year for the club as our membership was the highest ever and the workshop extension was completed. The committee is now seeking quotes from dust extraction companies to look at upgrading and extending the system. We are conscious that the current system is not as efficient as it should be and that particularly the bag changing process on the system outside leaves a lot to be desired. We are still considering the best Layout for the workshop and any future decisions on ducting will take this into account.

The committee has also approved the purchase of two more lathes at an extra special price, thanks to Graham Skinner. We have also approved the purchase of a bending machine for the instrument makers.

The exhibition this year was probably one of the best if not the best one for many years. We had a constant stream of people through with some knocking at the door at 8.30 on the Saturday morning. We have received a number of very positive feedbacks from the public. There is no doubt that our

exhibition is the highlight of the Eltham Festival for many people and in particular children. Many, many thanks to all the people involved in making it such a success.

We also had a very successful Whitsea Show with good support from members to demonstrate and sell our various products. Thanks again to all those involved.

Fifty members and their guests enjoyed a Christmas lunch gathering at Sinners Restaurant at South Morang. Judging by the noise of conversation everyone was enjoying themselves. Thanks to Dave Mitchell for this initiative.

As I mentioned at the beginning we have a record number of members and at the last committee meeting we also approved membership for two more refugees from Syria. They both come from Aleppo which is where Talal came from. Like Talal they want to get a job in the joinery industry and we hope that by getting support from our club, they can achieve that dream. They are currently working on their transport arrangements and when they have done this we will put them through the safety training course.

On behalf of the committee may I wish you and your families a very happy and safe Christmas and a healthy New Year.

John Winkett
President

Annual Exhibition – Geoff Oliver

Another great exhibition with a record number of entries (430) from a record number of club members (46). It really amazes me the quality and variety of entries, it's a credit to all.

Congratulations to:

- John Mentha being awarded the People's Choice (Barry Lay) award
- Steve Hood being awarded the Max Jensen Award (up and coming woodworker)

I would like to thank the members of the Exhibition Committee for all their work in the planning and set up of this event'

I would also like to thank the following:

- Members entering items
- Members helping to transport, set up and clean up the exhibition
- Members who helped during the exhibition with Wes's workshop, sales table, selling tickets, demonstrating and generally helping out.
- Maureen, Janette and Ilma providing tea, coffee and lunches throughout the exhibition

IMPORTANT NOTICE

FESTIVE SEASON WORKSHOP CLOSURES

2018-2019

	Last Session	First Session
Box Making	15 th December 2018	16 th January 2019
Carving Group	7 th December 2018	18 th January 2019
Saturday Open Workshop	8 th December 2018	12 th January 2019
Tuesday Open Workshop	11 th December 2018	22 nd January 2019
Thursday Open Workshop	13 th December 2018	24 th January 2019
Mentoring Monday	19 th November 2018	To Be Advised 2019
Pyrography Group	25 th November 2018	27 th January 2019
Scrollsaw Group	1 st December 2018	5 th January 2019
Woodturning Tuesday Evenings	4 th December 2018	15 th January 2019
Woodturning Thursday Daytime	13 th December 2018	10 th January 2019
Woodturning Friday Daytime (2 nd , 4 th Friday)		25 th January 2019
Wes' Workshop (Wednesday morning)	Currently Closed	To Be Advised 2019
Instrument Making Group		To Be Advised 2019

Please note: The nominated activity groups have the dedicated use of the premises during their time slots. Consult the EDWC Workshop schedule included in the newsletter for full details.

Bunnings Sausage Sizzle 2019

The Club has been allocated **Sunday 10th February** for our Sausage Sizzle. This is only 11 weeks away with Christmas, New Year and holidays in the mix as well.

With the Club's first general meeting only four days before the event, and with only one more general meeting this year, it would be desirable to have the roster filled prior to the end of this year. If you can help on the day, thank you, and please add your name to the sheet located in the kitchen at the clubroom. For about two hours of your time on the day, the Club should benefit to a sum in excess of \$1000.

Tony Orbe 0407 050 723 or 9437 0378.

Whittlesea Show 3-4th November 2018

Another successful show which continues to attract big crowds with diverse displays and activities reflecting the modern and old world. Apart from the Royal show, it's probably the only show left in our environment close to Melbourne which brings the rural world into the metro. Given the world we live in now, dominated by high tech electronics, lap tops, ipads and smart phones, it is a pleasure to spend some time in an environment which is dominated by people participating in physical activities, doing things they love, and maintaining the manual skills and abilities which have sustained life throughout all ages.

Talking about old worlds and all ages, once again our participation in the show was successful and enjoyable. The willing participation on both days, and the contribution by those who made items to sell, ensured the successful outcome. The club owes a debt to those members who continue to volunteer their time and skill, and it's fair to reflect on just what these members do and have done on this occasion.

Once again, Steve Mitchener supplied a quantity of small animal cut-outs which proved a popular seller. A special mention to Peter Davies who supplied a huge pile of scroll sawn animals and a quantity of his famed puzzles. These items collectively proved the most attractive and were snapped up by visitors. So popular in fact, that we had sold out all of these items by 2.30 pm on the Saturday, leaving no animals to sell on Sunday. A quick call to Steve and he, as always, was quick to respond and gave us another 70 which were promptly sold on Sunday morning.

Alwyn Wainright, Lorraine Kruger, and John Winkett once again made and supplied a number of cutting boards. These items were of high quality, and very useful items. On this occasion, they proved to be not a high seller, but we did manage to sell about one third of the number we had. Given the number of boards we have sold over past years, it could well be that almost all households north of the Yarra now have one, so demand has diminished somewhat! Lorraine had also made a number of bird nesting boxes. All of these items proved of immense interest to visitors. The number of people who poured over them, commenting on the quality of the work emphasises the prime reason we participate in the show; to display and demonstrate the craft of woodwork.



And demonstrate we did. Geoff Oliver attended the two full days, and spent most of that time proving to the visitors, and himself, of his proficiency in his newly developed skill of wood turning. Talking of debts owed by the club, Geoff's involvement at all levels continues to be amazing. Despite being up to his armpits in organising our exhibition, which was to be held the following week, he found time to spend two days at the show, as well as assisting in the set up and delivering equipment back to the club at the finish. Additionally, he was the one to race off to Steve's on Saturday evening to collect items to sell on Sunday.

Tony Orbe, also an enthusiastic contributor, spent the two days on his scroll saw which attracted huge interest. He supplied the trailer and transport of the equipment to and from the show and participates strongly in organizing the event. As always, Sandra Dean's carving proves one of the most attractive activities, which in a way, exemplifies the art/craft nature of the show. The steady stream of people admiring, and asking questions, is generally followed by her explaining why she's not selling them. Sandra also spent the two days demonstrating her skill, as she has done now for many years.



Two more activities which fit snugly into the nature of the show, are those conducted by Maike Pritchard and Wes Waite. Maike's joined us on the Sunday and demonstrated her pyrography which attracted huge interest. As we have all seen, Maike's work is amazing, and people are fascinated and impressed by the skill and patience in producing her extraordinary work.

Wes once again spent two days getting kids involved in activity. Hardly a kid got past him without having to try his/her hand at using his draw knife; paring shavings



off a lump of timber. This proved great fun to the kids, but also entertainment to the parents. I don't think there was one child whose mother did not pull out the phone to take a picture of the action. The upshot being that Wes now has his photo in just about every young mother's photo album in the local community!

Our involvement in the show was a success due to all those people. Additionally, the attendance and support of both Barry Vaughan and John Winkett was valuable as always, and can't close this without mentioning Mark Thompson who attended late Sunday and proved at last that as an expert Luthier, he makes great coffee!

Barry McDonald

E.D.W. Club Lunch – 23/11/2018 - Steve Mitchener

You know how it goes. If something happens, and I am there, I will write about it for the newsletter. And today is no exception. This lunch was hastily cobbled together at the last minute by Dave Mitchell, and it turned out to be a most successful and enjoyable event. Many thanks to Dave for attacking this task with enthusiasm and making it happen.

I admit the choice of venue was a big factor. Sinners is a great eatery. (Dave and Leanne are regular diners there, and I admit I have been there several times also.) The quality and presentation of the food is magnificent. The selection from \$10.00 meals through to top-of-the-range meals is literally

mouth-watering. They cater for every taste, and the attention of the warm and friendly staff to ensure you enjoy the experience borders on the incredible.

And the fact that a total of 43 Club related people (Members and their partners) turned out on such a miserable day speaks for itself. There were a few late cancellations, but with such a large and diverse group, that is to be expected. Those that came enjoyed the company, the friendly atmosphere, and the great food.

Some even tackled dessert, Lemon Meringue Pie was the favourite. Even I was tempted, but after demolishing my main, I knew it was a 'step too far' to tackle a piece. [My main was a Parmigiana Carbonara, and there were doubts at my table that I could clear the plate. The Parma was huge, and with chips and salad, and buckets of Carbonara sauce, it looked a daunting task. But I enjoyed every mouthful, and the only thing that went back to the kitchen on my plate was the cutlery and tiny remnants of sauce I couldn't mop up with the chips. Delicious!]

People started arriving just before twelve, and the last of us were heading out at three o'clock. Surely a three hour lunch is all the testimony you need to know it was a successful event. Everyone I spoke to enjoyed it, without a doubt. And if we ever want to go back, count me in....

Instrument Making Group – Frank Camera

The group was off to a good start this half year with four members completing at least one instrument and two others very close to completion. Five others got started but for various reasons did not get too far. The interest shown at the exhibition in November, and since, suggests that we may have a very busy year coming up. I have plans for three different levels of expertise in the building, catering for new members to the few experienced makers who want to progress to the next level, but this is entirely up to them, I will try and help all.

Sample instruments indicating my view of the different levels of complexity. The first one is a simple but great sounding 3 string CBG (or 4 string ukulele), the second a concert sized ukulele made with heated bent sides and a carved neck and the third a “real” concert sized ukulele.



I have suggested a Wednesday afternoon session each month as well as a Tuesday evening to hopefully suit as many members as possible. For the more advanced step involving side bending it would be good to practise as a group so we could all learn from each other before progressing to the actual instrument. But this can also be done over a few sessions to give those interested enough practise.



For this work the club now has a new electric side bending iron, and hopefully one day soon a drum sander which will be great for instrument making as well as for other general woodworking. Those of you who have been receiving my group newsletters would remember that the timber required for bending does not have to be very exotic but it does have to be quarter sawn, so start looking!

This is good quarter sawn timber although ideally it would be better if the grain lines are all at 90° to the top and bottom (actually rift sawn) all the way along the length of the board. Note the grain lines run virtually straight along the flat sides of the board.



We will start the sessions in the new year when we will hopefully have the days ratified, but in the meantime if anyone needs any help with deciding or planning an instrument please feel free to call or email.

Around the Workshop - December 2018 - Charles Camera

The extra space in our extension is a big improvement to the working environment. With reorganisation of machines there is now more scope for scheduling groups and more importantly for allowing concurrent interests groups at any time. It has been the rule that the interest group scheduled had exclusive use of the club for their scheduled time. However, with the extra space the committee has resolved to allow members to turn up and **WITH THE AGREEMENT OF THE KEY HOLDER** do limited work at the same time. In taking up this privilege members turning up at a scheduled interest group time are asked to keep in mind that carvers for example prefer to work in quiet serene conditions rather than have noisy machinery in the background. With good intentions and a spirit of cooperation it is expected that the new rules will be welcomed.

There is always scope to improve safety within the club. Despite safety training and a safety manual that should have been read by all we are still seeing examples of unsafe practices. The piece of wood (hardly timber) in the picture was retrieved from inside the mitre saw guard. The wedge shape piece indicates several possibilities and some certainties. It is possible that there was not a straight edge (rule 1), certain that the blade was cutting erratically given the steps in the cuts on the face and certain that the action was highly dangerous. It is also disappointing that such a large off cut could



have been missed and left for someone else to find possibly when the saw was next used and after causing an injury. **Could members please exercise more care in following the safety rules, asking for advice when a job is not going well and never ever leaving machinery in an unsafe condition after an incident.**

The incident also demonstrates why members should always use appropriate personal protection in the club rooms. **Eye and ear protection are mandatory.** In another area there has also been some concern about the table saw riving knife being adjusted or even removed by some members when doing trenching. It is allowable to have an authorized person remove the blade guard to allow trenching (“dadoes” if you are American) **but the riving knife must not be moved or removed.**

On a more positive note the committee is considering the acquisition of several new lathes, a drum sander and a Domino machine. An overriding concern however is our seemingly inadequate dust collection system and the committee is starting work on planning for an upgrade to an “industrial” size setup but with a price tag upwards of \$18,000 it will require some grant money which is currently being sought. The committee is always interested in hearing from members who have suggestions for improvements to utilization or improvements to our equipment. Do we need larger lathes for example?? - what about this model in the picture?



Not all work is best done with hand tools for sure as there was a time when thickening a piece of timber meant many hours of work with a large jack plane and lots of sweat. However, as we gather more and more machinery it is worth again mentioning that many tasks are far better and more safely executed with hand tools. Martin Lawley will be leading some workshops on hand tool techniques in the near future and interested members should contact him about their interest and scheduled times. In contrast to the ever relevant role of hand tools there is the relentless move to automation. The pace of technical change is actually quite amazing and here is something that if you have not seen before may jolt you into realising just how far technology has come. This is not a gimmick it is a demonstration by Boston Dynamics,

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kHBcVlqpvZ8>

And finally, thanks to Dave Mitchell for organising a particularly enjoyable lunch Friday 23rd. Here are some faces enjoying the food and company



Pyrography Group - 28/10/2018 - Steve Mitchener

Beryl and Pete were both apologies for this session.

As usual I was early and settled down to work on a small sign in Kauri Pine for an Exhibition piece. It was needed to explain that the small scrolled pieces were actually Christmas decorations and NOT earrings. It would save me a lot of pesky questions at the exhibition.

Then I worked on a coaster sized piece cut to a Celtic style pattern. After that I did a small picture of a young Koala and a Joey for the Exhibition.

Maike worked on a scrolled and carved piece featuring Meerkats. Talk about “taking it to the next level.” A unique blending of scrollwork, carving and pyrography.

Graham and Tony were here testing and tagging the equipment required for Whittlesea next weekend, and our Exhibition the week after.

Once that was done, Graham joined us Pyrographers and worked on a frame for a puzzle piece he had done. Then he decorated a turned lid for a honey pot.

Not our busiest or most productive day, but we all enjoyed it. Only one more session at the end of November, then we break until late in January 2019.

Carving Group - Steve Mitchener -2/11/2018

Being early today was an opportunity to clean and service the Scrollsaw required for Whittlesea this weekend. Once that was out of the way, I settled down and did some work on some Celtic Knots. And I also dispensed some ‘sage-like’ advice and instructions through the day. I’m good at that.

Sandra worked on some more small Wrens in Huon Pine. Maike worked on her Elephant newel post topper, then laid out a stylised seal. Once she had band sawn the outline, the carving commenced. Batoul was flattening a piece of She-Oak by hand. The outcome of this exercise is to turn it into a free-standing ‘vase’ to display some dried Australian flowers.

John Mentha carved some v-grooves into the collar around the neck of a Grecian style urn he had turned. First, he had to teach himself to use the v-tool properly. (Verbal instruction can only take you so far.) Then he had to cut a series of grooves the same length and depth around a curved object. Not an easy feat even for a practised carver, but John did an excellent job and the results really set off the finished piece.

John Leahy was enjoying himself making a mess cleaning raw wooden sticks for shafts for his walking sticks. (It’s always good to see a fellow carver enjoying his work.) Maurice was starting to carve Ratty from Wind in the Willows. Neil was working on another ginger type jar for his series in Radiata Pine.

The Nomad (David Green) was making a tail for his dog, which is a scaled down version of the beast at Fairfield station. Meanwhile, poor old Skittle was relegated to the car, didn’t even get his fat-arse inside today. Joe Van was here trimming excess wood off one of his turnings so he could finish it for the Exhibition. And Lorraine was here cleaning and sorting some of the accumulated crud in the hall cupboards.

Scrollsaw Group – 3/11/2018 - Steve Mitchener

No Tony in this group today, he's busy flying the flag at Whittlesea for the Club. And Jennifer is an apology too.

Roz missed the cut-off for the Exhibition this year, but she is determined to get this advent puzzle finished. So, there are tubs to dip pieces in, brushes to get the pieces too big to dip, rags to wipe off the excess, and paper everywhere to catch the mess. And there is plenty of Danish Oil being sloshed, brushed and ragged all over the place.

Beryl is in the next room machining timber for the next big project. Maïke is preparing to make legs (front flippers) for her seal carving from the scraps cut off the body. The difference required for turning a 'concept' into a 'reality' is the deft application of know-how from a more experienced woodworker. (That's where I come into it. I make things happen.)

Graham finished cutting his "Love Wood" sign, but had difficulty getting it separated from the waste. As I lent my expertise to the problem, the solution was forthcoming, and the desired result was achieved. (See, I do make things happen.)

Graham then went on to cut a 3D bear, and prepared to cut a 3D bee.

Noah got his days mixed, but as we were having a 'quiet' day, he joined us to work on his planter box.

Between guiding others, I marked out a lot of compound items to cut next weekend at our Exhibition. It's a fiddly and tedious job, and needs to be done with great accuracy, and is best done prior to trying to demonstrate. "Demonstration" itself is all about results, and that's what I want to achieve next weekend. Eye-catching results, mainly for the enjoyment of the masses. (Or very small crowds, depends who turns up.....)

Carving Group - 16/11/2018 - Steve Mitchener

Sandra and Maïke are apologies for today. But apart from that, we had a full crew.

Rod is doing a high relief carving of a reclining lazy bear in Jelutong. Working from a photograph of a similar carving sighted in his recent travels. John Leahy was back working on his walking sticks.

Alwyn was putting the finishing touches to his Carving Man. John Mentha is starting production of some low backed chairs in Redgum. Batoul is still working on her She-Oak block.

Maurice started on some spoons and holders in Radiata Pine for his kids. He needs four, and the first one he cut to shape just split apart in his hands. Lesson learnt: Builders structural pine is NOT suitable for carving. (I will donate four pieces of Kauri Pine to Maurice so he can emulate his first successful spoon for his kids. We both know that works!) Maurice went back to working on Ratty from Wind in the Willows. (It's good to have several small back-up projects in your kit.)

The Nomad (David Green) worked on his dog for a bit, and then turned back to his little fat mate, Skittle. (Who has been released from solitary confinement in the car since the last session.) David fitted a piece of dark wood to Skittle to shape a beak, and proceeded to make this colossal mess on the floor. [The Nomad made quite a song and dance about the mess, mainly to ensure I was well aware of it, just so I would include it in the article. Happy now Dave?]

In between offering assistance and advice, I worked on a Kauri Pine heart shaped Celtic Pendant, and put the finishing touches to another cat shelf-sitter in Huon Pine. Production for the 2019 Exhibition has started.....

Box Making Group –Steve Mitchener - 17/11/2018

It was a mixed bag in the Club today. Had a couple of known box makers in, and a few interlopers. But as no-one was interfering with anyone else, peace reigned supreme. (Except for the howl of machinery obviously, I am using a little literary licence here.)

Tony Romley popped in to cut some 45 degree mitres so he could fabricate his own angled shooting board like mine for box making. But the drop saw wasn't adjusting properly, and proved inaccurate anyway. So, we used the table saw to get the desired results. [Mark and I pulled the drop saw apart and got it adjusting (angles) again. But I have since heard it is jamming yet again.]

Steve Hood was making a small box for practice. Bruce was cutting glass to fit into his clock carcasses. (Which are basically boxes.) David Green made some box joins to make corners to fit to his lathe to accommodate his turning tool box.

Toby Grant was machining timber, which would become boxes at a later stage. And then we had Lorraine, Mark, and Stacey (and son) breaking down and machining up timber.

Between helping out and having discussions relevant to box making, I spent a little time carving in the back room. There was more 'peace' out there....

Thursday Turning Group - 22/11/18 – Tony Orbe

Photo of the group turning on the lathes in the safe and spacious working area of the new extension.



Pyrography Group - 25/11/2018 - Steve Mitchener

When you look carefully at the date (above), you realise it's only a month till Christmas. People are starting to talk about their holiday plans, and what's going to happen next year. The various groups are starting to ease off towards the holiday break. Classic example is this group, as I have received four apologies for today. Batoul, Beryl, Graham and Peter all advised 'unable to attend'. Which is fine, we all assign priorities suited to our individual needs and family circumstances.

And I also knew Jennifer was going to come along later and join us, for the last session for 2018. So, I opened up and settled down to work on a picture of a rose using Maike's dot technique. I have a couple of projects in mind I want to do in this style, and I wanted something easy to practise on until I mastered the technique.

Maike was soon here and burned a Pegasus decoration on top of a small box acquired from a thrift shop. (And silly me always thought it was easier to make a little box than buy it!) Then Maike started pyrographing a seal whose outline she had set back into a piece of ply to give it some dimension. In carving this is called 'low relief'. An attempt at an entirely new technique which brought very credible results for a first try.

And we were also joined by Shirley Dwyer, who had attended our Exhibition and had come along as our guest, to try her hand at Pyrography as a result of the demonstration there. We set Shirley up with a machine and some ply, and Maike sketched out some flowers and Shirley set to work. But the story doesn't end there. Shirley had won fifth prize in our raffle, the garage, and was pleased to take it home for the grandchildren.

Then around lunchtime Jennifer joined us. Jennifer worked on the picture of the three hands that she was working on at the Exhibition. And while it's still not complete, it looks an awesome piece, and so very realistic.

Shirley was happy with the two flowers she had burned, and left us excitedly talking about buying a unit, joining the Club, and coming back next year to improve her skills with us. And my 'dotted' rose turned out quite O.K. too, Maike gave it the nod. So that was a great way to end this year. A couple of new techniques tried and mastered, and a new member keen to join the Club.

We'll be back on 27th January 2019 to resume work.