

The Eltham Woodworker



Reg Number A 0025947P

September 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 September, 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

As far as the workshop extension is concerned we were travelling well until the delay from Ausnet switching over the power. This has now been done but we haven't seen an electrician since!! No further work inside can be done until they have been. There will now be an aggregate path down the side of the workshop with Lilydale toppings. At this stage it is difficult to estimate when the work will be finished but at this stage I would guess towards the end of September.

When the work is complete and we have re-positioned all the machinery we will then address the requirements for any additional dust extraction.

Rada is progressing well with the outdoor furniture for the No 1 raffle prize but it will be taking up some space in our already crowded workshop.

At our last committee meeting more concern was expressed about the misuse of machinery in particular moving the position of the riving knife on the table saw. IT MUST BE LOWER THAN THE BLADE. Only members on the approved list, which is posted on the kitchen end of the machine, can alter this or change the blade.

The metal either side of the locking screw on the fence of the large band saw has been fractured. This cannot be repaired and will have to be replaced.

We had a very constructive discussion on the revised layout of the workshop taking into consideration ideas submitted by members. We will present the ideas at our next General Meeting.

I have also met with Brian Blethyn to discuss the racking in the container and he will advise on a day when he can do this. We will need some volunteers to remove the timber so that he can access the areas for racking.

The Wattle festival is fast approaching and everything seems to be under control. Thanks Martin for organising this. This year one of the car park spaces will be taken up by the chap who gave us the timber last year, the timber now being used for the outdoor furniture. He sells small woodwork items and I believe some timber as well. The weather was much kinder to us this year at the Wattle Festival and I think we all had a good "day at the office". Many thanks to everyone who supported the club especially the demonstrators and also those who lasted the whole day. Once again, we created a lot of interest in what the club does and we sold exactly \$400 of raffle tickets so well done everybody.

John Winkett

Hurstbridge Wattle Festival – Steve Mitchener – 26/8/2018

Yesterday was the Wattle festival, and I was sitting back and finishing my coffee this morning, and thinking about how many Wattle Festivals the Club had participated in over the years. And since I have a proclivity to write things down, I went back and checked. The earliest reference I could find was dated 2008, and spoke about how many of my animals they had given away at the previous year's demonstration. Which leads to the deduction 2007 was the first time we went to Hurstbridge, and we have been there ever since.

So, this one we just finished was our 12th event out in the sticks. We have been at the Community Centre since 2009, and what a great site the car park is for EDW. It looks out across the main road onto the river flats, and gives us plenty of space to occupy and do our thing.

This year with the addition of Martins' marquee, we had four set up in the space of ten minutes and were ready to demonstrate in about twenty minutes after starting to do the set-up. Fantastic! So much better than struggling with the steel and canvas monster as we did for the first ten years.

With so many Club members on site everything went smoothly. We had the lathe, scrollsaw, and two carvers working away. John Dawdy was there with his static display of miniature turnings, which always amazes the crowds. And Raman Rao was set-up and baffling the visitors with his paper thin shavings off his finely tuned planes.

The raffle prizes were well displayed and drew crowds to the ticket sales. I believe that details of our success will be available at the general meeting this month. Through the day the crowd numbers fluctuated, as they always seem to do. But the turners rotated the use of the lathe, and gave away their efforts to the viewers. (Notice that little turning quip in the last sentence?)

Off the scrollsaw more animals made it out into the wider world, and for the first time some 3D cutouts were produced and given away. This process amazed not only the little people (kids), but also the adults. But my only concern was that the carvers weren't following the trend and giving away their works to the spectators. (Just kidding! Being a carver myself I know how long it takes to do even a small carving. And I'd be extremely reluctant to give one away myself.)

At the sales table there always seemed to be two or three people flogging tickets and taking the money, or at least keeping each other company in the quiet times. I would like to thank all the participants,

demonstrators, sellers, set-up and transport people for their efforts. And for those that came to help, and didn't get an opportunity to do so, thanks any way. Just having so many hands available throughout the day makes it an easier and fun day for all.

Fortunately, we didn't get rained on like last year. Even though the wind was cold, at least the sun was shining to warm our spirits. The pack-up was another well orchestrated event and with the many hands being available, it took hardly any time at all. One group then took the gear back to the Club house, and the rest of us weary people set off to wend our way home.

Around the Workshop – August 2018 - Charles Camera

Another month and the extension is still not complete. Just what is it about building that makes it universally an industry that NEVER meets building deadlines??? When it is complete we will need to layout the new and old area to make best use of the new space. There have already been several very good layout submissions to the committee. The submissions had much in common especially regarding the setting out of our many poorly utilised but very good benches, suggesting that they be placed orthogonally along the western wall and the re-siting of the lathes to the top right side. The submissions will be presented at the next G.meeting and further suggestions are still welcome.

This month's maintenance involved the large bandsaw which was out of action when the fence bracket was found to be broken. Either very excessive force was used to tighten the adjustable lever or the fence was violently forced out of line. Whatever the cause the damage repair cost nearly \$200 and put the saw out action for a week. Please take care with adjustable levers which are also on our other machines including the planer and lathes. All are designed to lock up the adjustable component very securely with only moderate force. On another note I have given up trying to place an order for bandsaw blades from our usual USA source and have instead fitted a locally sourced blade. The blade is thicker and has far more set than the USA blades and appears to be very smooth cutting and unlikely to drift as much. I will be interested to hear comments from regular users especially as it would be good to settle on these in future.



Broken bracket from the bandsaw.



The table saw has again had the riving knife moved up. It is not clear if this is due to tampering or if the blade was lowered too far as doing so catches the guard and when forced further can lift the riving knife up out of its proper position. In either case more care is needed and NO ONE may change the setting unless they are cleared to do so.

The Bosch battery drills are suffering from poor charging even with the recent replacement NiCad batteries. The committee has decided to replace them with lithium ion powered units and Keith Hawkins is in charge of finding the most attractive replacements.

Elsewhere some clever members led by Rado Starec are in the home stretch building the first prize for the club's raffle. Here are some of the team assembling the outdoor table which is a welcome change from the boring commercial designs and will no doubt attract a lot of interest from prospective ticket buyers.

Each month I get several requests from the public through our website and FB page. Many of the requests are impracticable or are people trying to get commercial work for free. However, there are also many genuine enquiries and one recently was from a lady wanting a dolls house for her daughter. I circulated the request and Martin Lawley took it on and produced just what was wanted (and a bargain !!).



Cabinet makers all know how tedious making mortise and tenon joints can be using traditional techniques. The domino machine though expensive does however make extremely light work of the task. If you are not familiar with the Festool Domino machine you can see it by clicking on the link here <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WUwYlgAL-Mg> Sometime in the future the club would do well to acquire a domino machine but there is now a competitor that has been commercialised from a homemade machine by Canadian woodworker and very successful YouTube blogger, Matthias Wandel. You can look at his very interesting web site here <https://woodgears.ca/> and the new commercial unit here <https://hybridpantorouter.com/>.

Our club has a culture of community involvement which is not only rewarding for those involved but also gives the club a great deal of good will. Many others are also involved in charities and community groups. Member Caryl Rowan has one such interest in an organisation called “Dream Stitches” <http://www.dreamstitches.org.au/about-us>. The organisation aids migrant women by teaching various dress making and quilting skills. Caryl would like to invite members to support the group by attending their fund raiser garden party at Bishops Court garden on Clarendon Street facing Fitzroy Gardens on Saturday 27th October. Please contact Caryl if interested (0407333583). Further details here.

Instrument Making Group – August – Frank Camera

Given that most of the sessions for this group have been on rather cold (read freezing) days, the progress has been fantastic. There are about eleven members currently at different stages of building an instrument with a few very close to completion. The prize, if there was one, for the first finished would go to Chris Kelly for his beautiful three string CBG. We saw his boat building talent at a meeting early this year and I can't wait to see and hear his latest building project shown here. It is finished with four coats of Cabots clear satin and a very authentic looking Cigar Box logo painted on via a stencil. Great work Chris,



and now for your second instrument.....

By the time this newsletter comes out I'm sure David will have finished his ukulele with Andrew not far behind with his CBG. For those of you who did not see the sound board of David's CB ukulele this is it. It is now fully assembled with a sound hole right in the middle of the lovely inlaid turtle.





I have been busy with some other projects, home, work and holidays but slowly moving along with the CB baritone sized ukulele and a “real” concert sized ukulele. Any other members who may be inspired by the progress so far are welcome to come along and join in the fun of making something “different” but very rewarding. They make great presents for young grandchildren!

Visited the Melbourne Guitar Show a few weekends ago and I have to say that I have never seen (and heard) so many guitars in the once place! There



were also plenty of ukes but the stand with CB ukuleles had the weirdest collection of CB ukuleles. Some are shown here from their website (all electric) and if anyone is interested they are from Brookwood Cigar Box Guitars in Moolap Victoria.

Pyrography Group – Peter Davies - 29/7/2018

I think Steve opened up about 10-past-dawn, so it was warming up when others arrived and by 10:30 all the regulars were there. On display from Maike were a pyrographed seascape, a scrolled and pyrographed deer and a carved bird – pyrography in great detail as we have come to expect from her. Interspersed with our usual banter some work got done – everyone doing something different: Maike added detailed feather work to a scroll sawn eagle; Steve has found a new source for his witty quotes and sayings so he was working on yet more plaques; Beryl was decorating some cheese boards – I hope the buyers will use their knives on the reverse side!; Graham decorated a “3 D” name puzzle for a grandchild; I put a highlight edge on a scrolled mini-clock and then decorated another pen with an underwater scene (that resulted from suggestions from the group).

Next meeting will be on 23rd September.

Box Making Group – Steve Mitchener – 1/8/2018

Sandra was here and machined up some more Silky Oak and cut it down to make smaller boxes. Apart from some discussion on sizing and lids, I wasn’t needed for much help or advice.

And Steve Hood was fitting splines across the corners of his big tool chest he has been working on. And while on the outside they just look like decorations, on the inside the top ones go across the corners to hold a lift out tray in place just under the lid. A very useful adaptation of a very old idea. And since Steve was working on discussions we had in the last session, I wasn’t needed for assistance with this project either.

So as this group was very small today, I managed to get some carving done on my Gargoyle decoration. I intended this for a household ornament, but in handling it so much today, I am now re-thinking its final end-use. It could be so much more with so little extra effort.....

Watch this space.....

(That’s just to give you something to do.)

Carving Group - Steve Mitchener -3/8/2018

I was settled inside with my small collection of paraphernalia, and was starting to do more work on my Large Gnome in Huon Pine. There's a long way to go, and a lot of edges to be removed.

Maike started carving an elephant in a newel post topper donated to the Club. Maike has sketched out roughly the position of the head and trunk, the opposite end, and in-between four stumpy elephant legs. (Only because any other legs would look ridiculous!) Now the trick is to get rid of all the wood that isn't elephantine.

Sandra worked on her fat bird and switched to a horse later in the day for variety.

John Mentha was shaping his stool tops.

Maurice worked on his little wren, that has no wings.

Rod started work on a fork in Kauri Pine to match the spoon he has already made.

And David "I'm here this week" Green was working on his fat bird. David isn't happy I keep referring to his wader as 'a fat bird', so from now on I am going to call it "Skittle". (Because that's what it looks like!)

There was no Neil here today because he is off attending a concert and embellishing his cultural refinement. I mention this just to prove that THERE IS MORE TO LIFE than just woodwork.

Scrollsaw Group - Steve Mitchener - 4/8/2018

With the Clubrooms in disarray because of the continuing extension work, we scrollers and our machines could happily 'spill over' into the new section to enable us to work.

Jennifer was cutting the finger joins in her game box.

Beryl was cutting men and dog figures in various poses.

Roz was working on her advent calendar.

Maike and I spent some time involved with mechanical repairs to her machine. It now cuts straight and in-line, and Maike cut out a small gnome in Kauri Pine to carve later.

Tony was cutting photo puzzles. Today's was "River at Echuca in flood, with boats." Catchy caption, it's actually bigger than the puzzle.

Graham was cutting a car photo puzzle. (No caption, all car.) *Ed and not a dog in sight!!!*

Show and tell from Graham today consisted of two turned pens, a bud vase, cheese knife and a magnetic whatsit. And there was also a pyroed pen from Maike, which I believe was turned by Graham.

After playing mechanic, I managed to cut some little rattle-board men, and some 3-d cut Christmas decorations. I am thinking of making them into a display to show 'the versatility of the Scrollsaw', not to decorate a small Christmas tree.

Carving Group - Steve Mitchener - 17/8/2018

Carvers were in full swing today as the numbers were up, and everyone was in good spirits. There were plenty of quick witted retorts flying about, and there also seemed to be an unusually high amount of general stirring. (And believe it or not, it wasn't just me wielding the spoon.)

Sandra was trying to fit legs to her fat bird and the aged and contorted piece of wood selected for the base. I don't know what was being more difficult; the bird, the base, the legs, or Sandra.

Maike continued working on the small gnome, which was cut at Scrollsaw, and then started to be carved at home. The elephant started in the last session got a workout too. Mainly at the end opposite the head, and there were a few quips about where Maike was shoving the knife to remove the wood. (All taken with the good grace that they were made with.)

Rod carved a desktop piece featuring two footprints. One large, and one small, representing adult and child we presume. When he finished for the day the only thing left to do was sand and finish it with wax.

Alwyn was working on his wood carver figure.

John Leahy was working on his leopard head for a walking stick.

Neil was making a bigger thickness gauge, with a longer reach, to use on a Cello instead of a Violin.

Maurice joined us after lunch, as he was working in the morning, and brought in a large piece of pine to convert into a cheese and cracker server thingy. It's not really a platter, but rather two carved bowls separated by a flat area. So 'thingy' seems a good name for it.

I just about finished my gargoyle piece, and am still considering 'the next level' for this item. I then went back to my large Gnome, which still needs a lot of work applied to it.

And David "Nomad" Green was down along the coast somewhere apparently, which explains why he wasn't here. He's certainly living up to his name!

Box Making Group - Steve Mitchener – 18/8/2018

I brought along my usual "fill in" work, in case I had a quiet day within the group. Just as well, because I would have gotten bored because the three people that turned up didn't need much help from me.

Sandra cut and assembled two simple open topped boxes for use at U3A. Nothing flash, just very functional little boxes in ply, glued and reinforced with some small nails. (These little buggers won't come apart, I can assure you of that.)

I did spend some time with Steve Hood showing him how to use a Scrollsaw to cut small shaped mounting blocks to suit his home-made twisted handles. I cut the first one, Steve cut the rest and cleaned them up. These handles will compliment his robust tool carry-all that he has been making.

And Bruce was with us working on assembling a pair of mantle clock carcasses he had started some time back. One is in Red Gum, and the other is in Jarrah. Roughly the same size, but completely different in appearance.

I spent some time finishing off and cleaning up the carving of the Gargoyle. I can move him along to the next level now.

Garage Prize - Steve Mitchener – 23/8/2018

It's only been seven weeks since Shane and I started on this. We changed, altered, revamped and mutilated the original concept early on, but surprisingly the finished item isn't that far off the original design. The structure itself has a slightly larger footprint than originally conceived, and the petrol bowsers have been shifted to a 'stand-alone' island.

The concept of a three level elevator was made to work, as was the car wash and the service hoist. (The three level elevator is self-emptying at the top level, and can be manually emptied at the second level. How good is that?!) The ramps coming down from the top level didn't live up to expectation, but general access and parking is excellent. So, we think we have created a winner.

Shane and I have discussed “modifications” to the Mark II version (for next year if we do it again), to overcome the ramp problems. And have some ideas on re-structuring the entire project.

Comments when it was displayed (unfinished) at the general meeting were all good and favourable. And now, all the bits are glued and screwed into place, paint has been applied all over the structure, and the gadgets are all working as they should.

Today I put the final finishing paint onto the garage, and finished making and painting the signage for the bowser stand. Tomorrow I can fix the signage to the bowser stand roof, and I’ll still have a day and a half spare before the Wattle Festival (which was the completion deadline.)

So I now declare this project complete, and can cast my eye about for something else to do.....

EDWC Buy Swap or Sell

Members are invited to submit items of any sort but preferable related to woodworking for inclusion in this section. Below are this month’s submissions. In each case please contact the owners if interested.

Ian Pullen has for sale the following - Contact Ian on 0447 289 820

CIG Trans-arc Craft Welder with Amp.high and low settings.

Low variable from 20 =100 Amp and

High variable from 30 to 140 Amp.

Unit is mounted on wheels with a pull along handle

as standard to make it easier to manoeuvre.

Comes with instructions, masks, descaler hammer and a variety of electrodes

Bonus

Ryobi 100mm hand held grinder

\$100

TRITON MK3 Saw table/ Router table / Jig Saw table/ Stand and Bench support for long timber lengths.

Instructions included.

Bonus

Bosch Jig Saw

Instructions included

\$85

Makita 235mm Circular Saw

Can be fitted to triton saw bench Instructions included a variety of blades included **\$75**

Makita Pistol Drill 1/2”/ 2 Speed/Forward Reverse/Variable Speed/percussion(hammer)

Bonus

Pedestal Stand

\$75

Hamilco Bench Grinder 200mm (8 Inch wheel) Dia. wheel 560 Watt (3/4HP)/3000RPM 240 Volt

Bonus

Includes dressing wheels

\$100

Bosch Router ¼” chuck 25000 RPM

\$60

Portable Disk Sander with table/portable

\$10

The club has for sale the following Ozito router stand - \$25
Contact Charlie Camera or Dave Mitchell



Charlie Camera has for sale a new lathe chuck – 4 jaw 110 mm (4.5”) with M30mm diam by 3.5 mm pitch adapter that fits most lathes. \$135. 0413481699.

Mark Thompson has for sale a drill stand and an old small bench drill press up for grabs ...contact Mark 0433424254.

Finally, David Muller (a past member) is collecting hand tools for a very worthwhile charity that donates them for building habitats in such places as New Guinea and The Philippines. I am personally going to run through my mountains of unused tools and hope that some other members will do the same. Please bring them in to the club where I will set up a collection point.



EDWC CLUB Workshop / Meeting Calendar

Box Making	1 st Wednesday 3 rd Saturday	1 pm 9.30 am	Steve Mitchener
Carving Group	1 st & 3 rd Friday	9.00 am	Sandra Dean
Open Workshop	Tuesday 2 nd & 4 th Saturday Thursday	9.30 am 9.30 am 9.30 am	Key Holder Mark Thompson Key Holder
Mentoring Monday	Monday	9.30 am	Dave Mitchell
Pyrography Group	4 th Sunday except 29 th April, 29 th July	9.30 am	Peter Davies
Scroll Saw Group	1 st Saturday	9.00 am	Steve Mitchener
Woodturning	1 st , 3 rd & 5 th Tuesday Thursday 2 nd & 4 th Friday	7.30 pm 1.00pm 9.00 am	Graeme Deany Graham Skinner David Cowan
Committee Meeting	3 rd Wednesday	7.30 pm	Committee
Exhibition Committee	4 th Wednesday	1.00 pm	Geoff Oliver
General Meeting	1 st Wednesday	8.00 pm	In CFA Hall
Wes' Workshop	Wednesday	9.00 am	Wes Weight

These dates do not consider public holidays. Please check.

Note 1. All members are encouraged to make full use of the clubrooms. However, the nominated activity groups have the dedicated use of the premises during their time slots. Please consult these groups beforehand if there is a special reason to use the workshop during these allotted sessions.

Note 2. Open workshops generally commence at 9.30 am but if no one arrives by 10.30 am the member rostered can close-up. If you cannot arrive by 10.30 am contact the rostered member to make other arrangements.

Note 3. Long weekend key holders have the option to cancel. Members must confirm prior to attendance.

Club Key Holders

The following people are key holders and can be contacted to gain access to the workshop at reasonable times outside the regular opening times. It is a commitment for all key holders to ensure club rules and regulations are maintained, including signing in and out in the attendance book, cleaning up, checking dust extractor bags, etc. For safety reasons a minimum of two people **MUST** be on site when using workshop equipment.

J. Winkett,	B. Jackson,	D. Mitchell,	B. Vaughan,
S. Mitchener,	G Skinner,	L. Kruger,	C. Camera,
B. Lay,	B. McDonald,	G. Oliver,	S. Dean,
G. Deany,	M. Thompson,	K. Hawkins	D. Green,
A. Wainwright.	S Watson		