

The Eltham Woodworker



February 2018

Reg Number A 0025947P

Office Bearers

John Winkett President	9439 1793	John Brownrigg Vice President	0409 145516
Charles Camera Secretary	9434 2269	Dave Mitchell Treasurer	9436 4916

Committee Members

Keith Hawkins	9432 6751	Tony Orbe	0407 050723
Steve Mitchener	0409 003487	Bruce Jackson	9717 4802
Lorraine Kruger	9436 1742		

All correspondence to be addressed to the Secretary, P.O. Box 701, Eltham, 3095 or email
secretary@elthamwoodworkers.org.au

Newsletter Editor

Beryl Watling 9439 6860 editor@elthamwoodworkers.org.au
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 7th February, 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

Speakers

The speakers for the February meeting (Wednesday 7th Feb) are from the Melbourne School of Fine Woodworking. Their website (msfw.org.au) is well worth a visit. The school differs from our club in that they provide (and charge for) specific tuition. The standard of work on display on their site is very good. I think everybody will enjoy our two guests, and I look forward to seeing you all at the meeting.

John B.

Annual Sausage-Sizzle Fundraiser

Bunnings Mill Park has allocated Sunday April 1, Easter Sunday, as the Club's fundraising day. The Club is looking to 16 or so members to volunteer 2 hours of their time on the day. It would be appreciated if those members who are able to assist could fill in their availability on the BBQ roster at the February General Meeting or alternatively contact me by phone or email.

A few efficient, large Esky type portable fridges will be needed on the day. Could any member able to assist with the loan of a fridge please let Tony Orbe or a Committee Member know.

Tony Orbe 0407 050 723 arlgl@bigpond.com

Abrasives - Mind your Ps – don't have to worry about Qs – Peter Davies

Part of an article on abrasives in the Australian Woodworker (Feb 2018) gives a reminder about the grades of abrasive papers. Those starting with P adhere to the European standard. When there is no P, the paper conforms to the US standard. Unfortunately, the two standards are different, particularly grades higher than 180. Mixing grades when sanding your latest masterpiece could end up with you going backwards e.g. P400 is equivalent to 320.

For details The Sandpaper Man has a comparison chart on their website
www.thesandpaperman.com.au

You need to scroll down to the bottom of the home page to find the link to the comparison chart.

Around the Workshop – January - Charlie Camera

Many outside groups such as the CWC consider that our club is one of the more successful and prosperous woodworking clubs in Australia. We now have another favourable perspective as per the following piece which was sent over by Graham Legg an English visitor to our recent exhibition. Graham is a member of the Derbyshire Dales Woodcraft club <http://ddwc.co.uk/>. Graham was so very impressed with our exhibition and work that he has written the piece for inclusion in his own club's newsletter but thought we might be interested to also see it. (Printed below)

Visit to Eltham and District Woodworkers Club - (Eltham, Victoria, Australia)

During a recent visit to Melbourne, Australia, I noticed a very well displayed poster on a main road, in the district of Eltham. The poster was advertising an annual week-end exhibition of all aspects of wood working, with an official opening ceremony. This event was part of the wider Annual “Eltham Festival.”

I did no more than slam the breaks on, avoided a few local wild animals (Kangaroos), and wrote down some details. Within minutes of sending an email, I received a ‘phone call from Charles Camera (Eltham Woodworkers Club’s Secretary). Charles invited me to the formal opening ceremony of the exhibition, taking place at 7pm on the same day as our conversation.

What an opening ceremony and exhibition! I was absolutely amazed at the amount of preparation, planning, care and pride that everyone shared as a Club. There are usually around 300 entries! The exhibition was opened by the Mayor of Eltham, who formally welcomed me as an official overseas visitor from Derbyshire! I did have to inform the Mayor it was pronounced Derbyshire! I was also warmly welcomed by The Club President.

Following the formalities, I was handed copious amounts of sparkling wine, loads of lovely food, and a personal tour of the exhibition with Charles Camera. I was immediately handed a beautiful miniature Father Christmas. How on earth that was made on a lathe, I will never know.

I could not have been made more welcome. Everyone was full of smiles, wanted to say “Hello” and loved to talk about their work. It was a truly positive and enjoyable experience. The evening really made you feel as though you wanted to go back for more.

The standard of work, variety and creativeness was truly amazing. I was particularly interested in the use of Australian woods, and how really careful, and artistic members had been. Charles had also very kindly provided me with a “little bit” of Australian wood to take home (I did eventually take home 30kgs!).

I found myself talking to exhibitors in great detail about their work, their love of turning, carving, furniture making etc. I was truly impressed. (I can feel a school assembly coming on – you only ever get one chance to make a good first impression, and these lovely people really did make an outstanding job of that).

Charles informed me as to how the Club operates, by holding very regular training and demonstrations in their own purpose built work shop. The Club has recently been successful in securing significant funding to deliver a variety of community initiatives (c\$25,000 dollars!)

Please take a look at the Eltham & District Woodworkers Annual Exhibition on Facebook or Google “Eltham & District Woodworkers Club.” You will be amazed at the quality and variety of activities and the exceptionally high standard of work. Charles Camera would love to hear from any of our members.

Graham Legg

Christmas Lunch – 10/12/2017 – John Brownrigg

What a lovely day we had today. The weather was perfect, and the lunch was well attended. The venue (St Margaret’s hall, Pitt Street Eltham) works particularly well for such an event, in terms of access, equipment and people friendly space.

The catering was again excellent. Delivering “fresh cooked on the day” roasts can’t be easy, particularly when we were adding numbers until mid afternoon yesterday for the function today.

Those present chose to forego the usual entertainments in favour of conversation and socialising with their fellow members and their partners. All present had a most enjoyable and relaxing day. We had a few raffle draws which were well received and I’m pretty sure that next year’s event will grow as it did this year. Keep your eye on the newsletter during the year for the date of the next “get together”.

The committee had planned to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the club today, but have instead decided to stage a separate event at the club in the near future. We’ll keep you advised of the timing, and may let the festive season roll past first.

My thanks to all of those people who assisted today and particularly to those members who attended. The people who show up in support of the club and its members always provide the core to make an event successful. Enjoy the festive season and be safe.

Regards,
John B.

Library Rationalisation – Dave Mitchell

You will probably notice that the club Library shelves are looking a bit bare right now. You will be pleased to know in the near future we will have a more user friendly library and relevant to our needs. I will be getting rid of duplicate (triplicate etc) copies of magazines. Good Woodworking, Popular Woodworking and Practical Woodworking are now all gone, they are being recycled as photocopy paper etc. After reviewing their contents, it was very obvious that they are not relevant any more. Some were 30 plus years old and the articles in them was more relevant if you lived in England and wanted to make snow shoes or barn doors etc. Some articles are covered in all magazines over and over again. The power tools that were reviewed in the magaziness are no longer around. The later magazines we are keeping have similar articles and are in colour.

Our New Library will have paper copies of the Australian Woodworker, the Australian Wood Review, some Carving, Woodturning and Scroll saw magazines.

If you have Australian Woodworker after issue 154 or Australian Wood Review magazines that you would like to donate to the club (to make a complete set) please contact me.

We will have Electronic searchable copies of Fine Woodworking magazine up to issue 268 and 19 Woodsmith books in electronic form in the library and a PC to access the data.

Dave Russell has done an enormous amount of work with the library and there would be a lot more work should we pursue the current method. He recently reminded me what his predecessor said to him. I joined the club to do woodwork not be a Librarian. Historically, we (not Dave Russell) accepted any magazine that was donated to us and put it in the library. In hindsight we should have checked the content and relevance first.

P.S. I don't know why our library shelves did not collapse from the weight.

Club Clothing at A Special Price.

During the club house clean up in December I found four items of clothing in the cupboards. To clear these items, they are being offered to members at a reduced price and the money will be given to Dave Mitchell to put in the club's bank account.

- Item (1) - Windcheater "size M" with the club logo embroidered on in gold. Price \$20:00, normal price is \$40:00.
- Item (2) - Polo shirt "size S" with the club logo embroidered on in gold. Price \$15:00, normal price is \$30:00.
- Item (3) - Windcheater "size 16, 95 cm chest" with a screen printed club logo. Price \$10:00.
- Item (4) - Polo shirt "size 20, XL" with a screen printed club logo. Price \$5:00.

All of these items are in excellent condition and one is still in the plastic bag with the tag attached. If anyone is interested please give me (David Green) a call on 0419 143 072. It will be first in **best dressed**.

Regards, David Green

THINGS NOT TO DO [By the Grump]

Our Inox vacuum cleaner has worked well for years, and with luck and kind treatment will continue to do so for years to come. However, Inox have been taken over by SHOPVAC, an American company, and they no longer produce this type of cleaner, in particular with the long hose, and small diameter fittings. This means that spare parts are almost certainly unobtainable. Where is this going you may ask?

Well, the fitting at the end of the hose has become quite worn from using without fittings such as a crevice tool or similar attached. The good reason we do not use such tools is that the supplied items disappeared within a couple of months from the purchase of the cleaner. Thrown out, knocked off, who knows where they went? The hose end is actually worn on a very noticeable angle and no longer fits in the wand end as it did at one time.

Now the good news is that the club has located a set of used accessory fittings, that in fact were off the same make of machine. You will find these stored in the sockets around the base of the machine. So please, no more hose dangling without a fitting on the end to clean up the sliding compound saw etcetera. And return the jolly fittings to the sockets when you have finished. [I mean b***** fittings]

The Grump [Barry Lay]

Carving Group – Steve Mitchener – 1/12/2017

As the end of the year approaches, with the big Exhibition behind us again, things are beginning to slow down. As I was early, I settled down to start work on a “rattle stick” that I had seen depicted in a magazine. It’s actually a walking stick with a decorative end that incorporates some loose pieces of timber in the carving that are supposed to rattle as you walk along and alert the wild bears that you are coming. Since we don’t have wild bears loose in this country, I am doing a short hand-held

version, just because I like the idea. It's scrap wood, some soft pine. So, it should be easy carving. Another of those 'fill-in' jobs I like to start,

Next in was Alwyn, who set about his little wood carver figure. This is beginning to take some real shape now. Then David fronted and worked a little on his spoon. Sandra joined us, and worked on her cougar on a branch for a while. Then started work on a curved bit of timber to start to shape it into a horse's head and neck.

Batoul worked on her second goose. Barry and Talal were in the workshop doing the doors. Plenty of talk and banter, but it was obvious the group had slipped into a low gear.

Scrollsaw Group – Steve Mitchener – 2/12/2017

The very last Scrollsaw session for 2017. Where has the year gone? (You would think I would know since I have been reporting on it for twelve months!) Have apologies from Beryl, Jennifer and Ron, but expect some visitors to fill the gaps.

Due to the major 'storm warning' I left home early to allow for traffic, downed trees, flooding and all other sorts of chaos and mayhem. But, I had an easy run and arrived unhindered in a timely manner. So, I carried all my gear in, set up and prepared to get to work.

Had Graham here working on his dog sign as previously mentioned. And Tony Orbe was discussing the table he needed to build for his new Scrollsaw. Design and construction of a table is a critical point. It needs to be light, portable and strong enough to do the job.

And I had Batoul and Raman both here taking lessons and doing some practice cutting. Always good to see new people taking up the exciting challenge of scrollsawing.

Also had a visit from Roz, recently back from NZ and wishing to catch up with the group. Wes dropped in, and spent some time with us too. And then there was Barry out in the workshop making the doors.

Spent that much time talking and instructing, I didn't actually cut a thing. So, I had a pack-up without a clean-up, which is quite unusual for a scroller.

Mentoring Monday Group – Steve Mitchener – 4/12/2017

Six of the group fronted today, and my notes only show two 'supervisors' in action to cover everything that's going on.

Patrick was working on his table. Mainly making floating tenon holes under the watchful eye of Charles. Batoul was cleaning up some Redgum posts after scanning them with the metal detector. Charles was keeping her under surveillance.

Paul and David were working with the author on their step stools. It looks so simple, but I am finding there are a lot of fiddly little steps to getting the damn thing done. (Thank God that Dave left his jigs and patterns for this beastly.)

Jennifer spent the day sanding her 'cook box', and affixing the wheels. We decided not to fit the hinges to the lid, as they looked 'under-rated' for the job. Jennifer will acquire more substantial fittings for the next session. Steve Hood worked on his workshop trolley. Cutting pieces to size and trenching them to make drawers to suit.

The group were all busy doing something constructive, and in complete safety, while Charles and I flitted about watching everything. It was a good productive day for all.

Box Making – Steve Mitchener – 6/12/2107

I was here early as usual, with a little carving to do to fill in the gaps in the day. Bernie was an apology, and John Harrington brought up his friend Dennis as a prospective member. Nice to show someone around and explain how the Club works and the variety of work that is actually done here.

Batoul cut up some ply for future projects. Jennifer also cut some ply to size and marked out pieces to make a box for her Pyrography unit. It was good to see someone working to a plan. It shows consideration for the construction and dimensional requirements of the project. Always works better with a plan. Sandra worked on her Myrtle box.

Small group, small report.

Mentoring Monday Group – Steve Mitchener – 11/12/2017

Another busy day with Charles, Martin and myself monitoring all activities and ensuring all are working safely and to their appropriate plans.

Pat was working on his table, and Dave Russell was working on his panel pieces. Batoul faced a block, and then spent quite some time discussing proportions and design of bedside tables to suit her home. (See, organising a plan to work too.) These discussions led to a decision not to make it from solid timber, but rather to build a frame and face it to give the appearance of solid timber. Thus, creating the same “look”, but with a light weight construction and a major cost saving.

Mario and David working on various aspects of their step stools. Steve Hood working on pieces of his mobile shed bench. Jennifer fitting ‘heavy weight’ hinges to her cook box, and then sanding the edges flush all around in preparation of finishing.

Another productive day.

Mentoring Monday Group – Steve Mitchener – 18/12/2017

Last session for the year, a few missing faces, but considering the time of the year and the many activities, it’s not surprising. And still no Dave Mitchell. Must be resting up after his cruising about the place. What a life!

Patrick was working on his small table. Paul was catching up on his step stool. Batoul was dressing some Redgum posts after thoroughly checking them with the metal detector. Dave Russell was working on his small cupboard which is to have pine drawers.

Jennifer was ‘reclaiming’ some timber found on the roadside. Becoming a real Woody with her ‘reclaim, recycle, re-purpose’ attitude. (Wonder where she picked that up from?). I didn’t note what the timber was, but after it was de-constructed, de-nailed, scanned and cleaned up, was obviously worth the salvage time and effort. A good find, and an opportunity to re-purpose some good timber.

Thanks to Charles and Martin for all their able assistance over the last few weeks in monitoring and supervising the various activities of this busy little group. Now to go home and put the feet up for a bit.....

Scrollsaw Group – Steve Mitchener – 6/1/2018

And here we go again folks! Another year begins, another Exhibition to look forward too. Have you started your Exhibition pieces yet? Don’t wait too long, it’ll be November again before you know it! I have started, got a few done. (But we didn’t doubt that, did we?)

Anticipated a small group, being January. Ron actually rang early in the week and assured me he would be here. Then he called back later in the week and bailed because of the projected temperature (42). Don't blame him! I wonder what the hell I am doing here!

Got here early and got myself set up. Then Beryl joined me and started making pairs of rabbits for book-ends. (We warned her, pairs of rabbits are dangerous things.). Maike brought timber, and we started making a table for her Scroll saw. Tony was here with his flash new table. Folding legs, another innovation for a Scroll saw table. Well done Tony. Tony settled in and cut some practice boards. And Raman was here cutting his little pieces on the Club machine.

Graham was working on his dog sign. Did I mention it's a big sign? He's been working on it since last year. Jennifer was cutting down ply for a box with finger joins. Once the sides and top and bottom were cut, the careful planning and layout of the fingers commenced. Due consideration was being given to the need to router rebates for the base and sliding lid.

And with all the talking, long lunch, helping with boxes and tables, I didn't get to cut a thing. So, I had my second successive 'pack-up without a clean-up'. And I had brought a heap of work to cut. Just as well I am retired and can catch up at home through the week.....

As it's hot (39 and climbing), we all packed up and went earlier than usual.

Pyrography Group – Peter Davies - 28/1/2018

With a 40C day forecast I suspect some of the regulars used common sense and stayed close to their air conditioning! Others were having a holiday break, so we were well down on numbers. The shade of the large trees and the fact that we were at the front of the club-house made things surprisingly bearable – at least until the early afternoon – we had lunch then called it a day.

On display: yet more of Steve's signs plus some Celtic-style animals and a totem; I have been trialling pyrographing drawings on pens then colouring the drawings – the latest (and best) were on show. To say the least, the heat of the day had us working at a very slow pace, so we achieved far less than normal; Steve did some work on a golf sign; Beryl had some Peter Rabbit bookends part finished; I started on enhancing some more toddler jigsaws for a charity I have been working with. Despite the Sun's best efforts to melt us and our equipment we still had an enjoyable day.

Next meeting Sunday Feb 25th, 9:30 a.m.

Saturday Box Making Group - January 2018

The turn up for box making in the first Saturday session was great. We had many new members arrive as well as some of the usual suspects (and a couple who turned up to do other work!).

Steve showed many of the basic joints used and there was discussion of what might be suitable projects to pursue. The next aim is to get some boxes into manufacture. This is difficult for the new members who are not yet screened for machine safety, but we are happy to assist with the machines and there is also a good suite of hand tools available for use. We shouldn't "write off" the joy of using hand tools for fine work.

The timber stash we had for newer members to use seems not to have survived the last clean up. Fortunately, Sandra has some more stored at her place and will bring more down so we can start in the next session (Wednesday the 7th this month). We didn't get to spend as much time with individuals as we'd like, but will try to remedy that in subsequent sessions.

I have been called by some other members who are keen to make boxes, and things look promising for the year. Many thanks to Steve "I'll never build a box" Mitchener as always, for his time, his knowledge and his willingness to show others how he made all the boxes he wasn't going to make.

Thanks also to Geoff Oliver who came along to provide assistance, and to demonstrate skills and methods.

The box making group is a lot of fun, can be rewarding for all skill levels and can assist with your knowledge of joinery.

John Brownrigg 0409 145516

Upcoming Events

- 10, 11th March - Shepparton Woodwork Show, at the East Bank Complex in Welsford Street, Shepparton. Free demonstrations, including EDW representation.

EDWC CLUB Workshop / Meeting Calendar

Box Making	1 st Wednesday 3 rd Saturday	1 pm 9.30 am	John Brownrigg
Carving Group	1 st & 3 rd Friday	9.00 am	Sandra Dean
Open Workshop	Tuesday	9.30 am	Key Holder
	2 nd & 4 th Saturday	9.30 am	Mark Thompson
	Thursday	9.30 am	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	7.30 pm 1.00pm	Graeme Deany Graham Skinner
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	Closed 9.00 am	Wes Weight

Please note that the Thursday afternoon Woodturning sessions by Graham Skinner will not commence until the 15th of Feb

These dates do not take into account 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,	J. Brownrigg,	L. Kruger,	C. Camera,
B. Lay,	B. McDonald,	G. Oliver,	S. Dean,
G. Deany,	M. Thompson,	K. Hawkins	D. Green,
A. Wainwright.	S Watson	G Skinner	