

# NEWSLETTER

## MAY 2024

### Eltham and District Woodworkers Inc.



Reg. Number A0025947P

#### **Newsletter Editor:**

*The next newsletter will come out at the end of June. Please forward any articles or information that you would like to go into newsletter to Richard Smith at [richardasmith1955@gmail.com](mailto:richardasmith1955@gmail.com) by the 27 June.*

**Next General Meeting**  
**Wednesday 5th June 2024 at 7:30 PM.**  
**At Clubhouse, War Memorial Park,**  
**Ironbark Road cnr. De Fredericks Road.**  
**Yarrambat.**

#### **President's Report**

May 2024

We are up and running into a new year for the committee. We are a diverse group of woodworkers and club members. Our first committee meeting was longish but quite productive with many topics covered and everyone contributing to the conversations.

Under Colin's guidance a path will be built across the culvert at the front of the building and leading to the front entrance. The path will also extend around the extractor area and possibly the container. Council have agreed to level the ground for this to be done. I'm sure Colin would be grateful for any assistance with this project.

We will once again be helping the Eltham Sea Scouts and their Joey's group make a fairy wren nesting box, the date set is the 19th of June. A few members have already volunteered, and anyone else interested in helping would be most welcome.

Shane has been busy sorting out the issues with the extractor with sawdust blowing out everywhere. Pool noodles can be used for many different uses other than swimming aids!

The club rooms have been getting a lot of use from what I've seen lately, with some groups increasing in numbers with some of our new members attending. And seeing the progress being made with the cleat walls and general tidy-up has been fantastic to see!

# NEWSLETTER

## MAY 2024

Progress is being made with the raffle prizes for this year's exhibition and everything appears to be on track with that. I'm very much looking forward to seeing them all completed.

Don't forget the June General Meeting is coming up on the 5<sup>th</sup> at 7.30pm. Please send through any items for the agenda as well thoughts on what YouTube presentations you would like to see. We are alternating between guest speakers, which I believe we have booked up until October, and YouTube videos for the General Meetings.

Don't forget your gold coins for the raffle!  
Happy woodworking!  
Jane

### **From the Secretary's Desk**

May 2024

Hello to you all. I was lucky (?) enough to get voted in as the new Secretary last month so this last month has been a busy one getting up to speed with all the various tasks. While I'm a relatively new member of the club, I've been on the periphery for years, helping Shane out here and there ... I've already had lots and lots of sanding practice on a variety of projects over the years!

Next on the list is to get a few of my own projects up and running.

We had a very long first Committee Meeting with the new group, covering a fair bit of history as well as all the things on the agenda. It was a great opportunity to get to know each other and we're all bringing a variety of backgrounds so interesting times ahead.

There continues to be lots of great work improving the club rooms, with more of the cleat walls going up and more things getting attached. There's also been some clean up of the 'treasure' cupboard – a few boxes of miscellaneous flotsam and jetsam, but also some interesting finds.

The June General Meeting is fast approaching so please reach out if you have any ideas or suggestions for topics you'd like to see covered. This month we'll be covering the latest on the engraver, finalising the Code of Conduct and introducing the Maintenance Day plans. And remember we're reviewing the Club Rules – please take a look, have a think and provide your feedback. We'd love to hear from you!  
Catherine

### **Membership fees due**

Members are reminded that membership fees of \$20 for the period 1 April to 30 June 2024 are due. This fee was part of the change to the club's membership year which was agreed by members at the February Special General Meeting. If you haven't paid already, please pay as soon as possible.

# NEWSLETTER

## MAY 2024

Payment details were included in the recent email to members.

David Brookes

### WHIPPERSNIPPERING

Many thanks to Evan Gallert and Sam Schumacher for helping out with whippersnipping a few months ago. Unfortunately, the thank you for those two is a bit late, but better late than never.



Also thank you to Adrian Desfontaines and Charlie Camera for the part they played in the program just recently. You'll see them at work below; where Charlie felt that a mower would be useful.



The members who are involved in this program only have to play their part once every fifteen months. If you are interested in joining this program we could make the involvement

# NEWSLETTER

## MAY 2024

of members even less often. Please let me know if you could help out. **The club looks a lot better when members help out with this program.**

Colin Groves

### MENTORING MONDAYS

#### Skills Techniques and Safety

#### ALL MEMBERS WELCOME

1-00 pm on Monday the 24th of June

The Fourth Monday of the month.

#### BUTTERFLIES, TAPERED DOVETAILS ETC.

The dovetail shape is used extensively in woodworking for some very logical reasons, so this month we will explore some of the alternative uses for this wonder of the woodworking skills. In May we looked at making dovetails for drawers and boxes, this month we can try some alternative uses for the dovetail shape.

Any members that have particular skills or techniques with dovetails would be welcome to come along and show us what you do, please get in touch with me and get involved on the 24th. Feel free to message me 0428577878.

Hamish

### Carving Group

The Carving Group continues to enjoy strong numbers with often, up to 9 keen carvers at our sessions. Steve our most experienced carving coach has continued to help a number of new carvers find their feet. We welcomed Steve Hood a very experienced turner, to our group who was keen to try out a bit of carving. Steve started him and another new starter, Kara on some chip carving of faces as well as working on some of his own projects, a celtic themed storage box and a range of interesting little rabbits and a hedgehog, plus a celtic brooch.



# NEWSLETTER

## MAY 2024

Steve's Celtic box and a set of rabbits.

Bernie has been working on a number of intricately carved panels for a couple of boxes that he is crafting.



Bernie's carved chest

Kevin has been most productive with a number of relief carvings: a held infant : a rose as well as refining a neat little carving of a cat. Hank continues on with his range of abstract carvings including a very interesting multi-pronged piece out of osage orange in addition to refining more of his selection of finely sanded hand-held shapes. Meanwhile David is persisting with his leaning man carving and is being rewarded as it is taking on great shape. Chris has been concentrating on a range of spoons and spatulas of various designs and has recently been spurred on after attending: 'Marmalade", a spoon carving festival up in Eden. We also welcomed Alwyn back. He has been working on relief carving of which eventually will form the front piece of a wood spirit bird house. Maike (prior to heading off on holidays) has been working on a very neat little wombat emerging from a piece of silver birch, Finally Peter continued to work on a kumilko project destined for a Japanese themed lampshade whilst I finished off a little girl gnome and started on a squirrel shaped nut-bowl.



# NEWSLETTER

## MAY 2024



Hank's Abstract sculpture

Rod on behalf of the Carving Group

### **Turning Group** (Thursday PMs) Report for April / May 2024

The Turning Group had a couple of productive months, We welcomed back Eric after recovering from a broken leg and enjoyed seeing him work on some commission/favours in the shape of a set of polish flag design themed plates for Sylvester who had prepared the flag /colours using a join up of red gum and yellow box wood pieces. Eric also completed some new gavels for the Kilara Lodge at Greensborough made from red gum. Meanwhile, Tom turned a very fine walled bowl out of American maple before getting stuck into some 'branch' themed salt and pepper grinders. Meanwhile Graham has been very industrious, turning some more chess pieces before experimenting with some off centre turning of a lidded bowl from camphor laurel and also tuning some beautiful goblets. Meanwhile, I have kept myself busy turning candlestick holders, a honey dipper. and finished off a fruit bowl.



regards

# NEWSLETTER

## MAY 2024

Rod on behalf of the turners.

### Macrocarpa.....or is it?

The Monterey Peninsula in California, 130km south of San Francisco, is noteworthy for a number of reasons. In an 1846 battle Mexico was defeated there and California became part of the United States. Fishing was the major industry in the early decades of the 20th Century and the canneries were the setting for John Steinbeck's famous novel *Cannery Row*. Nowadays golfers dream about playing the Pebble Beach course but at \$US675 a round it remains a dream for most. Tiger Woods hit an astounding shot there at the 2010 US Open: on the par 5 18th his second shot was stymied by a tree and so he hit a 273 yard slice over the ocean and birdied the hole. And that tree was a **Monterey cypress**.

The Monterey cypress is a **glacial relic**. During the last ice age when the climate was much colder and wetter its distribution was more widespread but as the world warmed the population retreated and its last refuge was on the Monterey Peninsula, a cool and moist outcrop jutting into the Pacific Ocean. There it is found naturally in just two small nature reserves. Most of us know it as *Cupressus macrocarpa*, macrocarpa for short and it is also called golden cypress. Botanists have recently discovered that the New World cypresses are different to the Old World ones and so it has a new name, ***Hesperocyparis macrocarpa***. Seeds of the tree were sent to England and Ireland in the 1800s and there it grew much better than at home, thriving in the wetter conditions and reaching heights of up to 40 metres and a trunk diameter of 2.5m. Eventually it spread to the colonies, thriving in New Zealand and southern Australia. Not so much in South Africa where the Cape trees are gnarled and wind-sculpted, much as they on the Monterey Peninsula. It is also grown in



# NEWSLETTER

## MAY 2024

France, Portugal, Italy, Greece, Kenya and Sri Lanka.



**Monterey cypresses “at home”.**

In southern Victoria, Monterey cypress was and is frequently grown as windbreaks on farms.



**Queenscliff Avenue of Honour**

It was also commonly planted in parks, camping grounds and Avenues of Honour, Queenscliff being a notable example. Since the trees aren't long-lived, 100 years or so, many are now being felled and so the timber is becoming increasingly available commercially.

The heartwood colour is yellow-brown, darker in old trees. The grain

is usually straight but can deviate considerably around knots from large branches. It has a fine, uniform texture with visible growth rings and a distinct, fragrant scent. Ray tissue gives the wood a lustrous appearance similar to that of hoop pine or kauri. It is a lightweight but strong softwood that is resistant to insect and borer attacks.

Monterey cypress is easy to work with hand and machine tools. It glues, stains and finishes well. Bending properties are reportedly very poor. These qualities result in a wide array of uses including: fence posts, weatherboards, exposed rafters and beams (internal), tongue and groove panelling, slabs for kitchen and bar tops, furniture and cabinet making, flamenco guitars, boatbuilding, picture frames, wood turning and carving.

As you will be well aware, Monterey pine or *pinus radiata* is also a common tree in these parts. It too is only found naturally on the Monterey Peninsula and also in two other very small areas on the Californian coast and two islands off Mexico.

Peter Goddard

**FOR YOUR INFORMATION:**



# NEWSLETTER

## MAY 2024

### **Committee Members for Eltham and District Woodworks Club Inc.**

President	Jane Hammett	0408 195 965
Vice President	Raman Rao	0433 741 753
Secretary	Catherine Watson	0449 294 814
Treasurer	Peter Gannon	0419 136 235

### **Committee**

Martin Ganter	0405 783 592
Shane Watson	0410 850 074
Rado Starec	0409 997 948

### **DATES FOR THE CALENDAR:**

General meeting                      Wednesday 5th June

Provisional working dates for:

### **WORKING BEES**

Sunday 7th July 9.00 – 12.30 followed by a BBQ

Sunday 6th October 9.00 – 12.30 followed by a BBQ

### **CHRISTMAS IN JULY**

Sunday 21st July 12.30

Social Events

We are working towards some more social events throughout the year

These will be posted once they are set.

### **WORKSHOP SCHEDULE:**

# NEWSLETTER

## MAY 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>Second Sunday <b>Scrollsaw</b> 9.00 – 4.00pm Steve Mitchener 0409 003 487</p> <p>Third Sunday 1.00 – 4.00 <b>Safety Training</b> Hands on <b>*Notify Martin if you wish to attend</b> <b>0405 783 592</b></p> <p>Fourth Sunday <b>Pyrography</b> 9.00am – 4.00pm Steve Mitchener 0409 003 487</p>	<p>Every Monday <b>Mentoring</b> 9.30am-11.30pm Charlie Camera 0413481699</p> <p>Hamish Hill 0428 577 878</p> <p>Fourth Monday <b>Skills Techniques and Safety Session</b> 1.00pm – 2.00pm Hamish Hill 0428 577 878 (An email prior to this session will be sent with details of subject matter)</p>	<p>Every Tuesday <b>Open Workshop</b> 8.30 am-12.30pm Colin Groves 0417 563 699</p> <p>Geoff Oliver 0417 375 782</p> <p>Shane Watson 0410 850 074</p> <p>Jane Hammett 0408 19 59 65</p> <p>Second &amp; Fourth Tuesday Instrument Group 1.00pm – 4.00pm Frank Camera 0427 964 245</p>	<p>Every Wednesday <b>Wes' Exhibition Toy Making</b> 9.30am – 12.00pm Wes Weight 0478 021 269</p> <p>First Wednesday <b>General Meeting</b> 7.30pm @ the club rooms</p> <p>Third Wednesday <b>Committee Meeting</b> 7.30pm @ the club rooms</p>	<p>Every Thursday <b>Open Workshop</b> 9.00am-1.00pm Paul Rushton 0417 017 347 (Paul will also assist with Hands on <b>Safety Training</b>)</p> <p>Sylvester Konieczny 0407 009 951</p> <p>Every Thursday <b>Wood Turning</b> 1.00pm – 4.00pm Rod Gorfine 0418 108 551</p>	<p>First &amp; Third Friday <b>Wood Carving</b> 9.00am-3.00pm Rod Gorfine 0418 108 551</p>	<p><b>First &amp; Third Saturday</b> <b>Open Workshop</b> 9.30am-12.00pm Aurora Messina 0401 866 859</p> <p><b>Second &amp; Fourth</b> Saturday <b>Open Workshop</b> 9.00am – 12.00pm Colin Groves 0414 795 347 Toby Grant 0488 994 741</p> <p><b>Fifth Saturday</b> <b>Open Workshop</b> 9.00am – 12.00pm Colin Groves 0417 563 699</p> <p><b>Second &amp; Fourth</b> Saturday 4.30pm <b>Safety Training</b> Hands off <b>*notify Raman or Kevin if you wish to attend</b> Raman Rao 0433741753 Kevin Seviar 0413 831 742</p>