

Eltham and District Woodworkers Inc.



Newsletter Editor:

The next newsletter will come out at the end of July. Please forward any articles or information that you would like to go into newsletter to Richard Smith at richardasmith1955@gmail.com by the 25 July.

Next General Meeting:

Guest speaker, @The Jig Man', aka Dave Mitchell

Wednesday 5/July/2023 at 7:30 PM.

At Clubhouse, War Memorial Park,
448 Ironbark Road cnr. De Fredericks Road.
Yarrambat.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:



We've had a very busy month. It seems like 6 months, but it's really only been a few weeks since I wrote to all of you last.

During the past month I've visited the 'homes' of the Knox Woodworkers and the Goulburn Valley Woodworkers. It's great to visit other organisations as we can learn so much from what they do differently to us.

Knox, in particular were extremely tidy as you can see from the photos. We have learned that putting tools out where they can be seen makes getting tools much easier. You will have noticed that we have made some moves to tidy up and move the tool area. Over coming months more changes will take place under the guidance of Martin Ganter. Knox's supply of timber for members and the way it was stored left me drooling.

I arrived at about 10.30 am during their tea break. I found it amusing to discover that they all stop for a tea break as we do and talk about other things they've been up to, or current affairs. They have a system of supervisors. The supervisors do not do any work but ensure that all people are using machines properly. Both Goulburn Valley and Knox were impressed with our effort of making toys for Wes' Workshop and make many children's toys per year for local charities. They will welcome any members who would like to visit.

We have also had a number of prizes donated by members for the Exhibition. The one on the left was produced by Joe Van Koeverden. It's one of 6 prizes produced by members for the exhibition raffle. Others will be highlighted in the future and include an outdoor bench, connect four, a jewellery box, a xylophone, and a chopping board.



Last Thursday the 15th. June Jane and I attended a luncheon provided by the Nillumbik Council at the Eltham Community Centre to celebrate World Elder Abuse Awareness Day. The guest speaker for the event was Jennifer Evans from Vic Services and she spoke about services available for older people. Later on, we were entertained by the Gd 3/4 choir

from Panton Hill P.S. The lunch was reasonable.

Sunday was a fantastic day. Over 30 people turned up to help with re-positioning the tools, general tidying up and cleaning up outside. About all stayed for the lunch provided by the club after we had finished the working bee and enjoyed a spit roast of pork and lamb. The club will provide a similar lunch on the Christmas in July day (on the 30th of July). You'd better start thinking about your fancy clobber for that day.

Hope you enjoy reading this newsletter which our media worker, Richard Smith, has produced for your knowledge and enjoyment.

Regards
Colin Groves



Survey

A member survey will be beside the sign in book next week. Please complete the survey during the session you attend and leave it in the purple box for collection.

FROM THE SECRETARY'S DESK....

Hello everyone,

Well, what a busy time I've had since the last report. And quite a few things to report on.

Colin and I have visited a few of the sessions over the course of the month, enjoyed chatting with everyone, hearing what they were saying and being very encouraged by the support that we have been shown. I plan to visit every session periodically. I am very interested in what you have to say, there is so much history in the brains trust, and I have been amazed at the knowledge and detail that is held by you.

So, we've had a working bee and spit roast lunch which was very well attended, and many tasks completed from the 'to do list'! It was fabulous to have so many of you turn up to get these tasks done, we really did achieve a lot. Although, when we had everything pulled out of the cupboards and bookcase and on tables I was in a spin thinking 'where will all this go?' But it all magically sorted itself out. You will notice that the library of books and magazines are in the kitchen now. Please make use of them, you never know what inspiration you will find in them. I have the original USB's for *Woodsmith 20 Woodworking Books on USB and Fine Woodworking Magazine Archive 1975 – 2017*. I will be purchasing the updated version of this - 1975 – 2022. I'll let you know when that has arrived. If you would like copies of these for yourself, please supply me with a 'clean' usb and I will copy them for you. When we have the TV and computer hooked up you will be able to view these at the club rooms.

Colin has been busy visiting other woodworking organisations, and coming away very impressed with their setup, which have given us many an idea for our club rooms. Hopefully some of them will make finding tools a much more pleasant experience!

The uniforms for display have been ordered but have not arrived yet. It will be great to see more of us in club clothing when we are out and about.

We are working on putting together a comprehensive list of wood merchants, which seems to be well in hand. This will be on display in the club rooms as well as being sent electronically.

We are also putting together an information pack for new members that will include things like the constitution, meeting dates, schedule, Safety and Procedures Manual, a brief summary of each discipline enjoyed at the club just to name a few.

Setting up a database of members and distribution lists...who would have thought this would be so fraught with angst! Some systems do operate differently. So, I apologise if I have bombarded you with emails, or got your info wrong. Arthritis makes typing fun, back space, back space, and repeat. We have a membership of 118 people, of which 112 are paid up members, and there are some new ones coming through as we speak.

Christmas in July 30th July 12.30pm at the club rooms. This will come around soon enough, so I hope you are thinking about your Christmas attire! There may be a prize for the best 'dressed'I will be asking for names soon so we can start thinking about catering.

You may have heard that have received a very welcome grant of \$4,668 to go towards the Exhibition in November. We have now booked the Thursday as well as the Friday to Sunday, such a relief to have that sorted. We have yet to identify someone to take control of the placement of exhibits, failing that Mark Thompson took quite a few photos last year, which will be very helpful. Not knowing the number of items to be on display it will make for an interesting time! Much fun to be had....

Happy wood crafting,

Jane

Woodsmith

The Club has copies of

- Woodsmith 20 woodworking books on USB
- Fine Woodworking Archive magazine USB

If you would like copies of these you need to bring a new USB or hard-drive to the Club and we can arrange to have them burned onto your USB.

Toy Maker's Group



As mentioned in our March newsletter, the Wednesday Exhibition toy makers have completed 2023 spitfire aeroplane toy kits. The annual Eltham Rotary Festival did not happen for two years due to covid which gave us off and on time to complete 2023 toy kits. Presently the Wednesday group are working on a Wren nesting box for 2024. We are fortunate to obtain a large quantity of timber intended for making 300 units in a flat pack form. For new members, during annual Exhibition days a kid's workshop is set

up where boys and girls can assemble the nest box under supervision of club members. It has been a long-standing tradition with the visiting public and the feedback received from parents on the activity always positive.

Nillumbik council recognises the benefits of engaging with the local community, new club members are welcomed to join the Wednesday group, the material supplied by club you can

make a wren nesting box for yourself and new members to familiarize with the club's
Some of Nev. Heskett's work

I picked up one of the redgum posts and a bit of the 19mm ply that was at the club rooms and produced a couple of plant stands.



opportunity for machines.



Carving Group Report

The carving group met on 2nd and 16th during the month with healthy turnouts: 7 on Friday 2nd and 9 carvers on the 16th. Bernie continued on with his detailed "Tree of Life" relief carving: Steve commenced a carving of the 3 'wise' monkeys which should come out beaut. He also, in his typical inventive way, started on a 'listening post' which he referred to as his 'military installation'! John had moved into the final stages of his very nice looking 'swan shaped handle spoon' carving. Hank had his traditional group of spoons in various stages of completion and had also completed some very interesting hand-held 'tactile' mini sculptures using his favourite wood; osage orange. Kevin had finished a delightful turtle carving and was starting out on a polar bear as his next project. We were pleased to welcome Mieke back after her various adventures: she was working on a relief carving of two baby elephants and we were delighted to see the fine progress that she had made on her long term 'owl' sculpture. As always David was being very productive with both a spatula and a small 'apple' carving that he



was finishing off. Jason was still busy with his spoons and Alwyn was

enjoying a carving of 'cartoon' elephants. Meanwhile I continued with my 3rd 'Wise Man', the guy who bought the gold to the manger.

Rod Gorfine on behalf of the carving group.

Turning Group (Thursday afternoons).

We've had a reasonably steady turn up of 5 - 6 turners each Thursday during the month with as always, a variety of blocks of wood spinning on lathes and being crafted into useful objects.



Tom has been very productive; turning a saltshaker to match his pepper grinder (turned last month), a pen and a small plate. Jack finished off a rather intricate 'open' ceremonial urn and Fritz completed 11 pens! (Destined to be presents I believe) and also finished his rather excellent lidded box in cypress.

Eric was also very productive, finishing off his hollow object (he likened it to a 'hot air balloon'!) also turning a pen and finishing off a beautiful miniature scoop. Graham turned some small vases from pear wood and at the most recent session, commenced turning a 'live edge bowl'.



I was also satisfied with my projects for the month: a vase and small plate using redgum; a bowl and at last session a banksia nut vase.

Rod Gorfine on behalf of the Thursday Turners.

Pyrography Group Sunday 25/6/2023

As this is a small group anyway, the numbers can dive rather quickly. Maiké had sent an apology due to ill health, and Kevin had texted that he would be late due to family commitments. So I was really relying on Beryl to turn up and keep me company from the get-go. And fortunately, she did not disappoint!

But after we had gotten set-up and ready for action, Beryl realised she had forgotten the picture she was copying of the “Mother Hippo and Baby”. Disaster! So we decided that we would “socialise without working” and just spent the morning chatting as we waited for Kevin to arrive. There is a lot to be said for the “therapeutic value of much unstructured conversation.” And we got great value from our rambling unstructured conversation, and even got morning tea in!

Then Kevin arrived much later than anticipated, and we decided collectively to do an “early lunch” and have some more chatting. Then when Beryl was satisfied with our “non-work effort”, she packed her gear and headed off. Kevin and I then decided to do some work. Kevin had turned a post capitol (decoration thingy) in Oregon, and decided he wanted to burn some plant decorations on it.

While he did that, I added some shading to a small panel I had burned some time back of a series of gear wheels. I had painted in the background and was considering turning this into another ‘geared box’ like some I had produced earlier. Not a problem for me, as I tend to make a box at the drop of a hat anyway. There is a photo for your perusal on the following page.



Wandering wood



Some months ago the club was alerted to a planned tree clearing at the site of the Eltham Gateway Project. A number of pine trees and Monterey Cypress (Macrocarpa) were removed as they were considered "weed trees" or were "nearing the end of their

life". <https://www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au/Develop/Council-projects-and-works/Eltham-Gateway-Project>. The council showing considerable wisdom decided to have the Macrocarpa trees milled for use in the project and excess lumber was to be offered to community groups free of charge. In the course of the operation, a considerable quantity of milled timber was stolen and as a result, the amount the club received was greatly reduced. What was available has been stored in Lorraine Kruger's shed for drying.

In a surprise development, a quantity of the timber originally set aside has not been claimed and it is now offered to the club for the taking. The picture above is of one stack (there are two) and is available for the taking. The timber is very fast drying, very stable and can be made into a large variety of both indoor and outdoor furniture. Is anyone interested in this project for which the timber is ideal.

Charlie Camera

On Friday 7th July Nillumbik Council are going to deliver this load of timber at 11am and it will be a mixture of macrocarpa and radiata pine. It will come in lengths of about 4m., so it will need to be cut in half for transporting. If you want some you will have to bring a chain saw, or secondly a circular saw, or thirdly a hand saw. We will have the wood available on Friday from 11am and all weekend, then on Monday what is left will go to St. Andrews Men's Shed.

HELP WANTED. We will need help to unload the truck that brings us the timber on Friday 7th July. Please let me know if you can help out.

Colin Groves



Potential Suppliers for Members

Listed below are some suggested timber suppliers within Melbourne metropolitan area. If you have other good sources let Richard Smith know so that they can be added to the list

Britton Timbers, Dandenong
<https://brittontimbers.com.au>
Contact: Brendon O'Brian

Mathews Timber, Kilsyth.....
<https://www.mathewstimber.com.au>

W R Timbers, Kilsyth.....
<https://wrtimbers.com.au>

Shiver Me Timbers, Clayton.....
(Sells new and Recycled Timbers)
<https://shivermetimbers.com.au>

Melbourne Timber Supplies, Deer Park.....
<https://www.melbournetimber.com.au>

Oz Timber, Thomastown.....
<https://oztimbers.com.au>

Australian Sustainable Hardwoods, Hayfield.....
<https://ash.com.au>

Cabinet Timbers, Braeside.....
<https://www.cabinettimbers.com.au>

Urban Salvage
<https://www.urbansalvage.com.au>

FOR YOUR INFORMATION:

Committee Members for Eltham and District Woodworks Club Inc.

President	Colin Groves	0417 563 699
Vice President	Raman Rao	0433 741 753
Secretary	Jane Hammett	0408 195 965
Treasurer	Dave Brooks	0438 344 024
Committee		
Adrian Desfontaines		0414 795 347
Peter Davey		0421 544 115
Aurora Messina		0401 866 859
Martin Ganter		0405 783 592
Richard Smith		0405 611 757

DATES FOR THE CALENDAR:

5 July	General Meeting 7.30pm.
30 July	Christmas in July.
27 August	Wattle Festival
16 September	Working Bee and BBQ 9.00am-12.00am
9-12 November	Exhibition (Thursday set-up)
17 December	Working Bee and BBQ

WORKSHOP SCHEDULE:

Second Sunday Scrollsaw 9.00am – 4.00pm Steve Mitchener 0409 003 487	Every Monday Mentoring 9.30am-11.30am Charlie Camera 0413 481 699	Every Tuesday Open Workshop 9.00am-12.30pm Colin Groves 0417 563 699 Second & Fourth Tuesday Instrument Group 1.00pm – 4.00pm Frank Camera 0427 964 254	Every Wednesday Wes' Workshop 9.30am-12.00pm Wes Weight 0478 021 269 First Wednesday General (member) Committee Meeting 7.30pm @ the club rooms	Every Thursday Open Workshop 9.00am-1.00pm Paul Ruston 0417 017 347 Sylvester Konieczny 0407 009 951 Every Thursday Open Workshop 1.00pm – 4.00pm	First and Third Friday Carving 9.00am-3.00pm Alwyn Wainwright	First Saturday Open Workshop 9.30am - 12.00pm Aurora Messina 0401 866 859 Second & Fourth Saturday Open Workshop 9.00am - 12.00pm Toby Grant
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0409 003 487		Every Tuesday Open Workshop 6.30pm-8.00pm Peter Davey NOTE: you must text or ring Peter by midday the previous day on 0421544115 if you want to attend this session.	Third Wednesday 7.30pm Main Committee meeting (elected members) @ the club rooms			0488 994 741 Colin Groves 0417 563 699 Third Saturday Box Making 9.30am- 1.00pm John Brownrigg 0409 145 516
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