

Eltham and District Woodworkers Inc.



Newsletter Editor:

The next newsletter will come out at the end of April. Please forward any articles or information that you would like to go into newsletter to Richard Smith at richardasmith1955@gmail.com by the 27 April.

Next General Meeting:

Wednesday 5th April 2024 at 7:30 PM.

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

FROM THE SECRETARY'S DESK....

March, 2024

Happy Easter!

I hope the Easter Bunny finds you all, and leaves you well stocked with Easter eggs. For the grandchildren when they visit of course!

It feels like the workshop is getting quite a lot of use, but that may be because I am up there a bit more. I have quite a few projects on the go at the moment, and if you have multiple projects on the go you can consider yourself a woodworker, apparently. I know I spend a fair amount of time just looking at them and then the wood that I have yet to utilize to see what matches, then walk away because I can't decide on what to use. Such is life.

We have a date for the Bunnings sausage sizzle – 24th November, 2024. We thought we might have had some already in the pipeline, but sadly we had not. I have to confirm with them, but I think we have the Mother's Day and Father's Day stalls again.

With Colin returning as a club member, he will go back to organising the whippersnipping and sausage sizzle management. Yay!

Our new membership enquiries have tapered off after the flurry from the Exhibition. I think Kevin is breathing a sign of relief! It has kept him quite busy. We may look at the process of new membership enquiries and registration after the AGM, to see if it can't be streamlined at all.

The AGM will be upon us before we know it, so expect emails and information to come out soon. We have preliminary indications for most of the committee positions now and are

waiting for a couple of confirmations. You don't need to be on the committee though to be involved with the club. We will be looking for someone to take on the newsletter and perhaps Facebook. If anyone has some skill here and would like to contribute at this level, don't be shy, contact me please and we can have a chat about it. There is always the sausage sizzle, whippersnipping, and when the time comes, selling raffle tickets at Eltham Village just before the Exhibition, and then there is always the working bees, helping to make the wooden projects for the Healthability program run during July and into August. I know they are certainly needing some help here.

The council arranged for the gutters to be cleaned, which happened on Tuesday as well as some fallen branches cleared away. We have asked them to take a look at the tree that is overhanging the club rooms, but as yet we haven't heard anything about this.

The driver of the truck that picks up our rubbish told us that they will no longer fetch our bins if they have not been put out. So, they need to be put out either Monday after the last session or Tuesday as the club is opening up. We also learned that although we have the prerequisite colour coded bins, they all get emptied together and are comingled.

You should have received an email from Dave Brooks, our treasurer, in relation to the \$20.00 'makeup' subscription to 30 June. Our annual subscription time frame has changed to 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025 and a flat fee of \$80.00 per year.

Martin Lawley, who lives up Albury/Wodonga way has made an open offer to club members that if you are up that way, to contact him and he can organize a tour of the workshop he attends, or better still the first and third Tuesday of the month, in the morning, is mill day. They have two Lucas mills and a Wood wiz.

Until next time,

Next General Meeting is the 3rd of April 7.30pm

Jane

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.

Payment details were included in the recent email to members.

David Brookes

HEALTH ABILITY PROJECT 2024



CAN YOU HELP ?

THE CLUBS "HEALTH ABILITY TEAM" NEED ITEMS MAKING SIMILAR TO THE ONES IN THE PICTURE... ANY NEW DESIGNS WOULD BE MORE THAN WELCOME..

THESE ARE TO BE IN KIT FORM SO THAT THE CLIENTS OF HEALTH ABILITY CAN ASSEMBLE THEM WITH OUR HELP..

WE NEED APPROXIMATELY 80 ITEMS, THIS IS NOT A BIG TASK IF WE HAVE A NUMBER OF MEMBERS TO ASSIST WITH THIS TASK..

MATERIALS CAN BE SUPPLIED BY THE CLUB.. IT WOULD BE APPRECIATED IF WE COULD GET 6 OR MORE MEMBERS TO ASSIST WITH THIS..

NOTHING TOO COMPLICATED AS THE PEOPLE WHO WILL BE ASSEMBLING THESE ARE NOT AS FORTUNATE AS WE ARE.. WITH LIMITED CAPABILITIES..

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED PLEASE CONTACT:
MARK THOMPSON ON : 0433 424 254

THIS ACTIVITY IS VERY POPULAR WITH "HEALTH ABILITY" AND GOOD FOR THE CLUB SO YOUR HELP WOULD BE APPRECIATED...

REGARDS : MARK THOMPSON....

Mentoring Mondays

Having missed a couple of weeks we will be back on Monday the 8 th . Several have taken up the stool making exercise, which should continue for a while.

One of the pleasures of Mondays at the workshop for me is seeing the variety of works being produced, I will endeavor to photograph and show some for future newsletters.

I have decided to stick with the 4 th Monday of the month for the skills sessions and thus moved the missed Designing session to the 22 nd of April, I hope this suits everyone.

Skills Techniques and Safety

ALL MEMBERS WELCOME

1-00 pm on Monday the 22nd of April

We will be looking at and discussing making scale models, prototyping and coming up with designs, even playing with others' ideas.

It would be wonderful if any members that have particular skills in this area, perhaps a CAD user could show off a bit also, get in touch with me and get involved on the 22nd. Please give me a call 0428577878.

Hamish

Instrument Group

The **Tuesday PM Instrument group** is back in full swing and plenty of room for any new members interested in some good fine woodworking.

We have printed plans for many instruments, simple to a little more exacting but very doable for new and experienced members alike.

You can make something like a 3 or 4 string “cigar box” guitar (CBG) for starters (becoming popular and fun to play, especially for young grandkids) to any of 4 different ukulele models or a tenor guitar.



An original 4 string CBG



CBG curved bottom work in progress



Concert size ukulele



Simple concert size ukulele and the progress.

body work in



Interesting shaped CBG



Pineapple shaped ukulele



Some carving is also involved in

most instrument work.

You could even try a small great sounding xylophone.

Any questions or special requests call me on

0427 964 254 or email frankc@tpg.com.au

Frank Camera



Pyrography Group Sunday 24/3/2024.

Back to a small group this week, apologies from Maike, Kirsten and Beryl. The three that were left did more working than talking. And we finished up very early as “others” had different plans for the afternoon. (Notice the use of the plural?)

Rowena was working on her bee plaque. Adding honeycomb pattern to the background and shading under the large flower and leaves. Still a bit of work to be done, but this piece is definitely coming along very well, and will really be a “keeper.”

Kevin added more shading to a great picture of a fox that he had done earlier. Then proceeded to darken areas of a rural scene he had also done earlier. I think he has been finally convinced some deeper shading adds depth and life to his pictures. And he’s definitely turning out some nice stuff...

In the short time available, (dig, dig), I shaded a Celtic patterned coaster to finish a pair I had started six years ago. (There is no need to rush these things!) Now I have a matching pair at last. Then I moved my skills to burning specific lettering and a rose design on a hardwood heart for a friend, so they can gift it to another friend of theirs.

Nothing imparts true friendship more than a skilfully burned piece of wood. (That statement doesn’t have the impact I thought it would!)

Steve Mitchener.

Scrollsaw Group Sunday 10/3/2024.

Kirsten and Kevin were apologies for today’s session, but that still left three blokes and three ladies to make sawdust. So it’s not all bad news.

Chris Hand was doing another thick wood (30mm) children’s puzzle in Jelutong for painting later. Sorry, I forgot to note the subject matter. Then Chris moved on to a 3D snowflake piece I had provided the pattern for. Chris cut this out and all the pieces assembled correctly and firmly. A very good job!

I gave Rowena a bit of an assist to machine a piece of scrap wood to a usable configuration. Rowena then took over and scrollsawed it into a spoon shape for carving at a later session. Then Rowena moved onto cutting a puppy jigsaw puzzle in 3/4” Pine.

Jess cut 3mm thick timber into various tree shapes so they slot together to replace a broken piece from a family favourite board game. Then Jess moved onto cutting a small elephant and a rabbit. All these women are doing good work, and I can see me getting the “heave-ho” out of the top job soon.

Tony Orbe was here meticulously cutting out some of my “stacking men” for family use. Tony’s not trying to emulate my output rate, so I am not feeling any pressure for the ‘top spot’ from him.

And we had Graham Webb back to see how I had gone making a stencil for Knight chess pieces he could turn. I had trial cut one, so Graham cut some timber to size and marked out and started cutting some out on the Scrollsaw. I gave Graham the stencil so he could continue his efforts at other times. He may need a couple of spares in case the turning doesn’t quite go as planned.

As for me, I was supervising everyone else, but still managed to cut out five baby penguins and eleven adult penguins. Decided to make up some small Penguin Family groups just for the hell of it.

Steve Mitchener.

Carving Group Friday 15/3/2024

Rod's visiting family over the water in Tassie, so I've been left holding the group together. Not doing too good a job. Maike, Kevin and Hank are also apologies for the day.

Fortunately Rowena was here carving the spoon she cut out during Scrollsaw earlier this month. Shaping the handle and scooping out the bowl. Shallow scoop, to be used more for stirring than dishing up.

Dave Green was here working on his leaning man for a while. Fiddling with the face, trying to make him look Human. (Not going to happen Dave. It's a piece of wood!)

And Bernie was here carving pieces for another box. (Didn't note the timber.) But it is a simple repeatable pattern, and he made a lot of headway through the day. Go Bernie!

And besides watching everybody else working, I carved the details into the small penguins I cut earlier at Scrollsaw. Shaped their little heads and trimmed their fragile little wings into the right shape. (Don't have this problem with the adults, they keep their wings down at their sides. Clever design feature that, I can tell you.

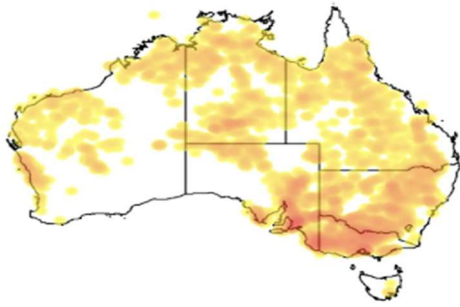
Rod Gorfine on behalf of the carving group.

The River Red Gum

I was only nineteen when I first learnt about red gum. First year university, geography fieldwork at the Grampians and some basic tree identification skills were being imparted. "You can tell it's a red gum because the flower caps are nippleiferous" said one of the tutors with a grin on his face. Probably not a genuine botanical descriptor.

The river red gum or *Eucalyptus camaldulensis* is the most widely distributed of the eucalypts in Australia. It can grow in such a wide range of environments because it is remarkably adaptable, coping with extreme droughts and floods, high temperatures, sandy and heavy clay soils, salinity and frosts. It shouldn't surprise that there are a few sub-species of *E. camaldulensis* and thirty-nine 'provenances' (smaller differences, adapted to specific environments but not enough to be a new species).





Red gum distribution.



A paddock red gum near Doreen, thriving in heavy, black clay.

Because of its adaptability coupled with prolific seed production and rapid growth when water is available *E. camaldulensis* has been grown extensively overseas, probably being the world's most widely planted tree in arid and semi-arid lands. Perhaps it's 'been to Bali too'. Some of its more interesting uses: in India young trees are spaced at 8m x 8m intervals to provide shade and shelter for crops and animals (don't camp under the red gum!); in Brazil it is made into charcoal for iron and steel production. Just as our First Nations people do it is used for medicinal purposes, eg. in Senegal a leaf concoction sweetened with sugar is used to treat stomach-ache and dysmenorrhoea.

*Eucalyptus camaldulensis*
planted and naturalized

E. camaldulensis is also an environmental invader in many countries, reducing soil water reserves, suppressing ground vegetation resulting in soil erosion and increasing fire hazard. Around the world red gum goes by some quirky names, eg. eucalipto in Brazil and rotgummibaum in Germany. But how it came to be botanically named is the real story. In the early 1800s the head gardener of a private estate called L'Hortus Camaldulensis in Naples, Frederick Dehnhardt, somehow obtained red gum seeds from one of the English convict colonies in New Holland. Growing one to sufficient maturity allowed him to publish a description of the plant and press a specimen. It was formally described in 1832. Meanwhile botanists in Australia were doing the same thing and it was called by various names - *E. rostrata*, *E. longirostris*. In 1934 Australian botanist William Blakely recognized Dehnhardt's priority and named the tree *E. camaldulensis* in his honour. Blakely himself has a type of red gum named after him, Blakely's red gum or *E. blakelyi*.

In Australia the river red gum commonly grows up to 20m tall, only rarely to 50m, with trunk diameters 1-2m or more. On one trip to central Australia, after One

More Boring Night in Adelaide, we stayed in Melrose for a couple of nights. This is a small town southeast of Port Augusta. On an evening stroll we chanced upon The Brewery Tree, the 38th largest red gum in Australia! Smack bang in the middle of a street, the sign proudly stated its dimensions - 9.29m circumference, 24m tall and a spread of 20m.



At the Clubrooms recently I was speaking to David Green and asked him about his name appearing twice on an honour board. As a result of our conversation I asked him to write a few words: Red Gum timber is a hardwood found next to most inland rivers in Australia. It has a very even reddish colour and is great for benches, tops, cabinetry, furniture and wood turning. It machines well but you do need very sharp tools.

Some time ago we (Eltham & District Woodworkers) had an annual award called the “Bob Crumpen” award. Bob Crumpen was a very early member and I think he was one of the founding members of our club who worked primarily with Red Gum.

In his honour this award was introduced as a perpetual trophy to be awarded at the annual exhibition. This item was voted by the members for the best piece for the year, but it had to be made out of Red Gum. I was very fortunate to have won that award on two occasions in 2015 and again in 2016.

My first piece was a garden seat (see pictures below) that was made out of recycled Red Gum sleepers. I collected these sleepers from a landscape gardener who was renovating a garden near my home. I still have this garden seat which now sits proudly on my front veranda.

Eventually this award was deemed unfair that the best piece in the exhibition had to be made with Red Gum and this award was changed to the “Barry Lay” award. Again it is voted by the members as the best piece for the year, but it doesn’t need to be made out of Red Gum. Barry Lay is a wonderful person who certainly doesn’t mind sharing his wealth of knowledge which has been gained by many years of experience in the furniture industry.



Peter Goddard

FOR YOUR INFORMATION:**Committee Members for Eltham and District Woodworks Club Inc.**

Vice President	Raman Rao	0433 741 753
Secretary	Jane Hammett	0408 195 965
Treasurer	Dave Brooks	0438 344 024
Committee		
Peter Davey		0421 544 115
Aurora Messina		0401 866 859
Martin Ganter		0405 783 592
Richard Smith		0405 611 757

DATES FOR THE CALENDAR:

General meeting Wednesday 3 April

Committee meeting Wednesday 17 April

Provisional working dates for:

WORKING BEES

Sunday 7 th April 9.00 – 12.30 followed by a BBQ

Sunday 7 th July 9.00 – 12.30 followed by a BBQ

Sunday 6 th October 9.00 – 12.30 followed by a BBQ

CHRISTMAS IN JULY

Sunday 27 TH 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:

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