

## Eltham and District Woodworkers Inc.



Reg. Number A0025947P

### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT:**

I'll start by thanking all those people who have congratulated me, our new vice president, Raman Rao and our new secretary, Jane Hammett. The committee has retained some of the members who have been on the committee for some time namely, Dave Brooks (treasurer), Aurora Messina, Adrian Desfontaines and Peter Davey. Congratulations to our two new committee members Richard Smith and Martin Ganter. Both are relatively new members who have both adopted very important roles. Richard is now responsible for the newsletter and is already seeking your input. He wants both articles and photos. Email address is [Richardasmith1955@gmail.com](mailto:Richardasmith1955@gmail.com) (Thanks to Frank Camera for being our newsletter person over the past years.) Martin is responsible for the maintenance of our machines. He already is looking at the placement of our machines and getting a new blade and cartridge for the Sawstop. (Unfortunately, we had an accident on that machine on Saturday 13th May. fortunately, the person who had an accident is OK.)

On another vein we have had three accidents over the past weeks. All concerned are OK, but it is worth mentioning that one accident involved the Sawstop, and it stopped in milli seconds as we were told, ensuring that the accident wasn't much worse. I must stress that all members be especially aware of the dangers of our machines. Be aware of the proper working of all machines, if you are unsure, then ask another member for assistance, they will help. I must also stress the importance of concentration. It is important that an Accident/Near Miss form be completed, these have to be sent off to our insurer.

The new committee had its first meeting on Wednesday, 17th May and feels that the area south of the front door, in the lathe area, should be specifically for the turners and nothing is to be left in that area at the end of sessions. We are purchasing some new first aid kits, the TV is to be installed in the new meeting area, and survey of members is being arranged to get opinions about the Club.

The committee also feels that cleaning up is a very important issue in our club. It is imperative that everybody cleans up after using a machine. Even if it is not the end of a session. At the end of a session all saw dust should be blown off machines using the compressor. It's then only a matter of sweeping.

Don't forget our BBQ on the 18<sup>th</sup>. June. The meat, salads, and bread, etc. will be provided. All you (and your partner) need bring is your drinks, glasses and maybe throw a chair or two in your car. RSVP is by the 11<sup>th</sup>. June.

To finish this report I would like to welcome our three new members in Christine Hunt, Leanne Deltoso and Ali Talebi.

Regards  
Colin Groves

## FROM THE SECRETARY'S DESK....

Hello fellow woodworkers,

Thank you to those who have been kind and generous with offers of help in my role as the club's new secretary and to the club in general. It has been really gratifying to receive, and I am very appreciative.

So, just a quick run through of what has been happening from the 'engine room'. We have a new member, Richard Smith, who has put his hand up to publish our newsletter and to run a series of questionnaires, over the coming months. Just small bites of information gathering where you get chance to have a say in how things get done. We are still in the early development stage, but in the meantime, if you have a question that you would like to be included, please let me know.

Richard used to put together newsletters and surveys/questionnaires in his working life, so I am sure he will bring a great wealth of expertise.

Welcome to our newest members, I hope you enjoy being a part of the club, and taking part in activities that the club holds, such as working bees and social activities. We rely on the membership to keep the grounds and work rooms in good order as well as other jobs as required. We plan to have a BBQ at the end of each working bee, where you can have a chat with your fellow woodworkers that perhaps you don't get to see very often. A very good way to get to know everyone and what their woodworking discipline is and perhaps you might be interested in attending their session. We have some very talented and creative people in the club who are happy to share their knowledge and teach the skills needed to produce lovely pieces of woodwork.

Martin Ganter, another new committee member, heads up machine maintenance and safety. I am sure Martin will be letting you know how to contact him to advise him of any issues. The Exhibition is in the capable hands of Adrian Desfontaines. Adrian and his subcommittee have done an excellent job in previous years. This year may be more of a challenge as we must pay for the use of the Community Centre. We won't have the Thursday to set up the rooms as we previously had. That puts a great deal of pressure on the Friday to get

everything done in time for the opening celebration and awards. We will be asking for volunteers to help as per usual, and hope we get many, many helpers to set up and then for the pack down on Sunday, where you will be rewarded with beverages and pizza!

I am working with Global Embroidery on the club uniform and will have some options to display at the club room soon. While staying true to the bottle green and gold, they will have a modern feel to them and, there will be a few more items to choose from. The original uniform will still stand true.

We have members working on the raffle prizes for the Exhibition, which will show case the skills that our club has within its ranks. And one day I hope my skills would be such that I can make and donate an item for the raffle.

We are going to hold more social functions, some at the club, others at other venues yet to be determined. The first of these, discounting the working bee BBQ on the 18<sup>th</sup>. of June, will be Christmas in July on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. of July, most likely at the club rooms but that will be confirmed closer to the date. The invitation extends to partners and spouses. Christmas attire would be fun, we may even have a competition for the best 'dressed' on the day.

We are open to suggestions from you - i.e., lunch at an RSL or venue of choice, bowling –ten pin or lawn, visit a local winery....

Well, this will do for the first issue of "From the Secretary's Desk". I hope you enjoy reading it, and please feel free to contact me at any time on whatever is on your mind, I'm happy to take your call and have a chat.

Until next time

Jane

0408 19 59 65

## Whippersnippering

Thanks to Toby Grant for his part in the Whippersnippering program. He managed to



whipper snip the whole area on his lonesome, his partner had a nasty fall and was unable to play his part because of his injuries. What a great effort Toby.

We have achieved much over the past months - the grounds have been regularly cleaned and we have our first garden. I have been inundated with ideas for further improvements to our building and grounds from interested members. As I have had so much interest, I would like to develop a Grounds and

Building group to further develop the grounds and building. If you are interested, please phone or text me on 0417 563 699 or email me on [cghhs48@yahoo.com.au](mailto:cghhs48@yahoo.com.au)

Colin Groves



## Mother's Day Market

On the 13<sup>th</sup>. May Geoff Oliver, Joe Van Koeverden, Alan West, Tom Laber, Martin Ganter and I went to Bunnings in Eltham to take part in their Mother's Day Market. We were invited to sell some of our wares that we had made along with the Eltham Mens Shed. Imagine Revolution and several others. It started off as quite a fun activity, but towards the end we were competing with each other to see who could sell the most. In the end we all had a great time and sold about \$750 worth of items that we had made. I think they are planning another market for Father's Day. Keep it in mind.

Colin Groves

## Carving Group Report

As most will be aware, the Carving Group meet on the first and third Friday of each month. Earlier in May, the annual weekend 'Bacchus Marsh Carve in' event was conducted with two of our group members, Maike and Hank representing us. In the meantime, our

Carvers met on Fridays: 5<sup>th</sup>. and 19<sup>th</sup>. Some of us have been away on holiday's or recovering from health challenges so our numbers have fluctuated a little, though a couple of new/returning members (Bernie and Carol) have joined us. Otherwise our carving group has continued getting together with various gnomes, spoons, turtles, nativity set figures and low relief carving designs emerging from the hands of our carvers.

Rod Gorfine, on behalf of the Carvers.



Steve's gnome



Rod's Wisemen

## Turning Group (Thursday afternoons).

A big thank you go to both Tony Orbe and Steve Hood for leading our group so faithfully and skilfully over recent years with both gentlemen generously sharing their turning skills and knowledge with our turning crew each week. Though both gents are enjoying a rest from the weekly fray, our Thursday pm turning crew have continued on with a couple of new members, notably Graham Webb and Peter Gannon. Earlier in the month Graham was having a go at recreating some chess pieces and Peter has been using his new skills turning a bowl and also a 'writing desk accessory'. In the meantime, though, while some of us have been away for some of the 'Thursday's, the lathes have been well utilised.

Yesterday's session (Thurs 25/ May) for example saw Fritz turning a lidded box and finishing off a mortar & pestle: Tom, a pepper grinder: Eric, working on a couple of hollow forms: Jack finishing off a basket and I finished off a small vase and turned a small plate. Overall a productive outcome with 'lots of shavings' to clean up!

Rod Gorfine on behalf of the Thursday Turners



Eric's hollow object taking shape.



Fritz working on his lidded box



Fritz's pestle taking shape.



Jack's wooden basket taking shape.



Rod's small vase and plate.



Tom and his pepper shaker on the lathe.



## Pyrography Group - Sunday

This group has been small for some time, and as the March session had turned out to be a non-event, when I heard two of the group couldn't make it for medical and family reasons, I reached out to the third member. That's right, there is only four of us including me.

When this member admitted "having nothing prepared", I had to admit I was in the same boat. Pyrography is one of those things where you need to have something ready to work on when you get here. Otherwise, you spend most of the session getting ready, and then it's too late to do it.

Since I wasn't expecting anyone else, we decided to cancel the session and get something ready for the next one on 28th May. Problem solved. So there is two things to take from this failed session. One, communicate with the session leader if you can't make it for some reason. Second, plan you work ahead of schedule and be prepared and organised.

And you notice no names were mentioned in the preparation of this article, so no reputations were damaged in the writing.  
Steve Mitchener.

## Mentoring Monday

There is never a dull day for those of us assisting members on Mentoring Mondays. The steady parade of new faces has changed over time as new members come along at first and then move to regular open workshops whilst others have continued to come along and enjoy the nearly elbow to elbow throng. There is now actually a shortage of benches after a long period where many benches were merely flat surfaces to store junk, are now well used.

Hamish has been busy instructing on the "Hamish" box making



router jig and a number of very fine, first time, boxes have emerged over the weeks including the one in picture where Val has nearly got it done. I am waiting for someone to ask Hamish how to make a



table as he is quite accomplished in that field with no less than ten units as in the picture that he made for Monsalvat. Strangely the making of tables by members

was once a common occurrence but I have not seen anything much for a good many years.

Elsewhere Meleisa has mastered how to do box joints on almost impossibly thin plywood. This is not for the faint-hearted or



perhaps for rusty old woodworkers who know better than to attempt such a feat.

However, she has succeeded with near perfect square sides.

And how about the small table that Lisa has completed as a first project?



There are lots of other projects in the pipeline and the Monday morning time slot will certainly power on.

## Scrollsaw Group

As it was also Mother's Day, I anticipated some "attendance issues" and wasn't overly surprised when I got them. Kevin and Tony both sent apologies due to prior family commitments. But on the upside, I had a visit from Steve Hood who had dropped in to show me his 'jigsaw Macaw and stand' which he had recently finished.

The jigsaw bird was resplendent in its bright colourful livery, and the beautifully turned and constructed stand was a pure work of art. My bird, the original one made, was colourful enough, but my stand made of two 19mm dowels with a fancy Scrollsawn cross piece looked pretty damn drab next to Steve's turned and polished masterpiece.

Chris joined me, and cut a small pierce-cut butterfly, which turned out really well. We talked about the manufacture of all-wooden hinges, and I promised to show her those techniques at next months Scrollsaw session. (I have already put some suitable wood in my 'travelling kit' ready for next month. Remember the hint about 'being prepared' in the last article?)

I was pre-cutting some penguins for the cutting demonstration I'll put on for the masses in November. (See that boy scout motto coming into play again? Be prepared.) I'll need a couple of hundred so I need to start early.

Steve Mitchener.

## Carving Group

Rod was an apology, off visiting family in Tassie. Hank was here working on his spoons again. He and Maike had been to the carve-in at Bacchus Marsh, look for the report elsewhere in the newsletter.

Maike was starting a carving of two elephants in high relief in Jelutong. Alwyn was working on a love spoon with chain, which unfortunately broke. But with today's glues, that's an easy fix problem.

Kevin was working on his turtle, and Bernie was carving the relief pattern in the lid of his jewellery box. (Wishing now that this hard wood wasn't so hard!) And David was cutting some of the heavy plywood down in the workshop to help Hank make a container to ship some of his (Hanks) works back to the USA.

As for me, I was doing a little work on a sugar glider on a branch. It's in Huon Pine and I stop/start on this when I can't be bothered working too hard. (Which as I get older, is happening much more often.)

And we had a flying visit from Colin and Jane to check on the industriousness of this group. And they went away happy with our efforts and determination.

Steve Mitchener.

## Pyrography Group

This month is the twelfth anniversary of this Group. And as if to celebrate it, all the members turned up today. I should have brought a cake!

Beryl was working on a picture of a mother hippo and her baby on a piece of Rubber Wood. Not one I am familiar with and sounds like a definite contradiction in terms to me. But it was pale in colour and burning quite well.

Maike was doing a scene depicting ferns and a mushroom on the forest floor in a small, framed square salvaged from an earlier project. And Maike brought this to life with her quick burning technique using multiple dots to build up a picture.

Kevin was working on two squirrels on a pine branch from a picture in a Sue Walters book. Sue is an Australian exponent of Pyrography known the World over. Most of our gear is brought from her website.

And I was also using the dot technique to 'build' a reclining lion on a piece of ply. And having used this technique recently to do several dinosaurs of different sizes, I am still amazed at

how fast a picture can build from a sequence of dots. Much quicker than the traditional outline and shading method. Like Maike, I think I am now a convert to this method.

As the day progressed, we discussed the future of this group, and decided that we have enough "collective experience" to assist others. So if you want a shot at this, come along on the fourth Sunday of the month and give it a go. We start at 9:00 and run till about 2:30 to 3:00. Bring your own lunch, all the coffee you can drink is provided, and chit-chat is mandatory.

Maike, as an artist, has offered to assist with artwork and layouts for any newbies. Kevin, Beryl and I can offer advice as well, and I have a great body of works that will enable me to comment on layouts and designs. And if all that fails, I'll bring in some books to help us. Come and joins us, we have a great time.

Steve Mitchener.

## 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

## NEWSLETTER ITEMS:

The next newsletter will come out at the start of July. 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.

Thank you.

Richard

**NEW WORKSHOP SCHEDULE:**

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

**DATES FOR THE CALENDAR:**

- 7 June                      General meeting.
- 18 June                     Working Bee and BBQ.
- 23 July                      Potential Christmas in July (to be confirmed).

**WANTED.**

Hello all! I have recently been really enjoying some slow, traditional woodwork at home (much easier to get a bit of sawing, chiselling and hand planing in as a young dad between nap times!)

I thought I would reach out and ask whether anyone has any hand planes that they would like to sell? I've been wanting to find particularly a jointer 7, a number 5 and 4 - or any sort of Bedrock plane !

I don't really mind the condition of them as restoring is a great deal of fun as well.

Thanks!

Leonard

0403 924 184