Eurobodalla Woodcraft Guild Inc

MEMBERS NEWSLETTER

July / August 2023

President's Report

Good afternoon, I hope you are all well and not too cold in the evenings. Today it was very warm at the workshop and the attendance was good.

On the sales day front we have an offer from the Longbeach community to attend a twilight market on the 1st October (which is a very small affair) and a much larger market before Christmas. We probably will attend both events as our income needs a boost. Before attending the sales days, we have to start making products we can sell. This part of our activities has been neglected over the last few years due to various reasons.

A more pressing reason comes to light before our annual meeting is the staffing and rejuvenation of our committee. It is understandable that some committee members who have been participating for some considerable time are indicating to retire from the managing committee positions. These positions have to be filled in an incorporated organisation as a minimum. In my opinion we should not be more than two to three years in a leading position. Generally, committee work is not very difficult or time consuming, obviously some positions are more then others. In our current situation where we have been trying for the past 44 months to reestablish ourselves somewhere in or near Mogo. This has placed extra burdens on committee members and an extraordinary workload on some. We require younger members to join the committee to participate, learn and adjust to committee life and take up a leading position in the future. To say it again, our current committee workload is not the norm and should not be a deterrent to nominate. This is one application which will guarantee you a job as long as you like.

Over the last months we received timber donations for general use and some timber we bought to be sold to members. The sale price of these timbers is about a quarter of the price you would pay in a timber yard. Also, the slabbing team have produced a considerable amount of timber which will last us for years. Some of the timber is earmarked for manufacturing workbenches and shelving for our new shed. One major donation came from a lady in Longbeach and Steve donated a jewellery box that we presented to the lady in appreciation. Thank you, Steve!

I hope to see you all at our Annual General Meeting. In the meantime, stay well and stay safe.

Cheers Helmut

Dates for Your Diary

Next General Meeting and Annual General Meeting -

Saturday 2nd September at our Workshop, Dunns Creek Road at **1.00 pm** following BYO lunch at 12.00

Proposed Sales Days 2023 :

Sunday 1st October (October Long Weekend) - Longbeach Community Twilight Market

Date to be advised—Longbeach Community Christmas Market.

Further sales days to be advised

NOTE: *Members seeking further information contact* ***: Secretary Eric Simes (02) 4471 5086***

SHOW 'N TELL - JULY

Ron Green brought along to Show and Tell a semi trailer made mainly from radiata pine. Ron enjoys the fine detail work but in the process of making the semi he broke his bandsaw blade by trying to make too finer a cut. He also sanded a few finger nails in the process - all for the love of woodwork. Ron finished the semi with baby oil and has donated it to club for sales days. Thanks Ron.

Trevor Fletcher brought along to Show and Tell another unusual project. It's a circular saw blade sharpening jig. Trevor decided to sharpen his own saw blades so he went onto You Tube to find a jig that would work for him then into the workshop to make it. Trevor used MDF and the jig suits all blade sizes. With an angle grinder with a diamond disc attached Trevor is now sharpening away. The MDF was left raw (no finish) and the angle grinder has been omitted in these photos for clarity.

SHOW 'N TELL - AUGUST

Barry Fenning turned this dish using end-grain Oregon which came from an old house in Sydney which was being demolished.

This is a sample of items made at John Tanner's home workshop classes recently. **Peter Stubbs**, one of our newer members, has obviously been enjoying learning the skill of wood turning, and he couldn't have a better teacher!

Ron Green has really got stuck into replica timber toy trucks and cars of late. These two fine examples were made using an assortment of timbers — some saved from the workshop incinerator! They're great Ron.

Helen Warland turned this lidded bowl using Huon Pine as the base, and Coolabah burl for the lid. Helen said the burl was very hard timber to turn and blunted the turning tool very quickly. The end result was worth it though.

HOME PROJECTS

Table restoration .. Helmut Delrieux

A family wanted a good home for an upright piano which was from the late 1700. Unfortunately, we could not help in the case of the piano but an old kitchen/dining table was on offer made from Kauri. Some years ago, I restored a similar table just smaller. This particular table had seen better times, the top was in three pieces and nailed/screwed through the top to the base. This table had a drawer which could not be repaired and was made from some other dark timber.

The top was removed from the frame and immediately the frame at the drawer opening broke through as it had no support at the top. Old drawer rails were removed and discarded. Sides were connected to the legs with a mitre joint secured with dowels and nails.

The dowels could be drilled out but the nails had to be cut and removed afterwards. One mitre tung broke off during dismantling and had to be totally restored.

The inside of the two long sides of the frame were strengthened by a 32 x 32mm hardwood rail screwed to the bottom of the sides which also could support the new drawer rails.

The round legs could be rejuvenated in the lathe by sanding them back, close to the original look. All the mitre holes had to be reworked and the dowel holes filled with new dowels.

The four sides were glued to the legs and strengthened by metal corner brackets (photo right, hardwood rail also visible). Also, the corners were further strengthened by timber inserts which also allowed the top to be secured from underneath. A new drawer was made and the rails secured on the hardwood rail. The three table top pieces were glued together and all forty holes were doweled. After sanding, the top was fitted with two locating pins and blind threads in each corner for securing the top to the frame.

The table top was finished with five coats of polyurethan and finished with hard burnishing oil sanded in wet. Frame and drawer are finished with beeswax and polished.

Lounge Chair repair . Helmut Delrieux

A lady from Riverdale asked if we could repair a pair of old lounge chairs which came apart at the joints at the front crossbar and at the arm rests.

The chair was manufactured in Australia by Wrightbilt Furniture which was at the cutting edge of contemporary Australian furniture design during the late 1950's and early 60's. The crossbar which connects to the uprights came apart and pulled the legs outwards from the springs which are mounted above the crossbar. Consequently, the uprights pulled together and came apart at the armrests. The dowels at the crossbar were also damaged and needed to be repaired.

To replace the dowels would require to dismantle the whole chair which on further inspection would be a major undertaking. Alone the dismantling of the spring system looked very difficult as it was complex and under considerable tension. Putting it back in would have been near impossible.

So, I opted for the easy way out and glued the crossbar to the upright and inserted two long screws in each side. The same was done on the joints of the uprights and the arm rests. The screw holes were pre-drilled with a Forstner bit and plugged with dowels. Some sanding, furniture oil and wax made it near invisible. The lady was very happy to have her chairs back and I guaranteed that the repaired joints will never fail … Helmut

CLUB PROJECTS

Moruya Jockey Club Trophies

The Moruya Jockey Club requested more trays and serving platters for their trophies, with short notice. So a group of Woodies teamed together and cut and glued multiple pieces of timber and came up with the following array of boards. Once dry, Steve Love continued the project and cut the boards to shape, and routed and sanded them back to finish the job with Kunos Oil. These are just a few examples of the finished articles.

The team were Mal McDonald, Barry Fenning, Sue Page, Chris Birks, Keith Hartis, Peter Brotherton, and Steve Love. Timber used were an assortment of left-over bits and pieces from other jobs.

Serving Platter .. Malcolm McDonald

Malcolm made this platter from the spotted gum slabbed recently by the slabbing team. Mal routed the internal shapes and finished the board using Kunos Oil. The platter will be part of the Club's next sales day items.

SLABBING

Remember this stack of radiata pine logs donated by the Forestry. Well take a look at what the slabbing team of done with them. A lot of hard work and sawdust contributed to this very neat stack of slabs, just drying out in the weather, ready for us to use on some future project. Well done guys!!

How Wood Rots

(Edited from a more comprehensive article by Steve Smith)

When you look at a stump or a piece of wood you can see on the cut surface a series of concentric rings, usually a darker brown and a light tan for common wood such as Fir, Pine or Spruce. The darker rings are the growth of the diameter of the tree in the winter and the lighter rings are the (much greater) growth of the diameter of the tree in the summer, as seen by the greater width of the summer growth rings. Certain kinds of bacteria or fungi will feed enthusiastically on the harder parts of wood (the winter growth rings) where other kinds of fungi prefer only to eat into and dissolve the softer, more porous parts of wood (the summer growth rings). Wood, before deterioration has started, has only a little porosity, but is about fifty percent empty space inside. If you put a piece of wood in water, it floats about half-above the water and half-below. This shows that wood is less dense than water. As wood deteriorates, it becomes "waterlogged". In this condition water has gotten into most of the empty space inside the wood, and it floats with less of its volume above the water, or may even sink when there is no air space left inside the wood. You may have seen waterlogged wood on the bottom of a pond, or you may have handled waterlogged or damp wood and noticed how much heavier it was than ordinary dry wood.

Wood is said to breathe because the natural humidity of wood, perhaps five to fifteen percent (once it has sat around in your garage for six months) can go up and down a bit as the humidity of air varies. The air humidity ranges from maybe ten percent in a dry summer to perhaps ninety-five percent in a humid summer.

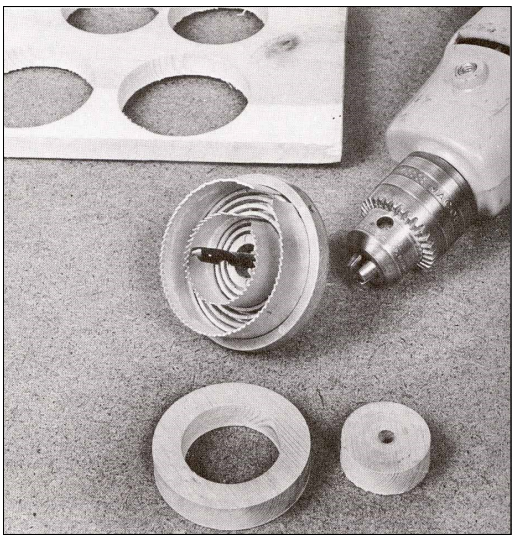
Humidity (of air) means how much water vapor is dissolved in the air. Ten percent humidity means the air is holding ten percent of its maximum capacity. Ninety percent atmospheric humidity means that the air has, dissolved in it, ninety percent of its capacity. At one hundred percent humidity it is raining. The humidity of wood is usually expressed as a percent (say, ten percent). What this means is the percentage by weight of the wood that is water. In the case of air the humidity is not the percentage by weight of air that is water, but rather the percent of capacity. The capacity of air is about one percent water by weight, and it varies a lot with air temperature. A cubic foot of wood weighs maybe 35 pounds. A cubic foot of air weighs .07 pounds (a cubic foot of water, for comparison, weighs 62.4 pounds).

Wood holds a little water very strongly and more water with less strength and even more water rather casually. When there is less humidity in the air, wood loses some of its water to the air by evaporation. When atmospheric humidity is high, damp wood may lose some of its water but really dry wood will actually capture some water from the air. You may have noticed that small branches of plants are very flexible. That is because the wood is full of water. As wood dries out it becomes stiffer. Old wood found in the desert is not only hard but brittle. You may have noticed how brittle is a dead branch of wood in the summer.

Wood can actually be placed in a box and exposed to the hot steam from boiling water. After a few hours the wood becomes flexible and can be bent into a new shape. If the wood is held in that shape as it cools down and dries back to its natural humidity at room temperature, it holds its new shape. The curved ribs for many small boats are made by this "steam-bending" process.

Wood, microscopically, consists of bundles of large hollow tubes with doors across the tubes every so often. These tubes are the walls of living cells, long since dead with only the skeleton remaining. The hollow tubes, the cell walls, are the skeletons of those cells. As the fungi eat away those cell walls, they open up the spaces between those tubes, and as the fungi dissolve the doors between one wood cell and the next, the wood porosity is opened up more and more. This allows more rainwater to be more rapidly absorbed in the wood, thus providing more humid wood which is more favorable to rapid fungal growth, thus accelerating the decay of the wood. As the wood becomes more porous it holds enough water to favor growth of not only fungi but bacteria, and between them they eat first the porous summer growth rings and then the harder winter growth rings, and finally there is nothing left.

And that is how wood rots.



When you need small wood rings use two blades simultaneously in the hole saw.

A single cut will produce a finished ring. The size of the ring and its thickness can be varied by different positioning of the blades.

DON'T FORGET THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING IS SATURDAY 2ND SEPTEMBER. BE THERE FOR THIS IMPORTANT MEETING — 12.00 LUNCH, MEETING STARTS 1.00 SHARP.