

Eurobodalla Woodcraft Guild Inc

MEMBERS NEWSLETTER

March / April 2023

President's Report

Good evening all, a quarter of the year has already gone and Easter is around the corner. The workshop is a hype of activity with some projects coming to an end and new ones in the pipeline.

Several projects were completed over the last week which deserve some photos and a little article in our newsletter on the process and challenges entailed. I would like to express my sincere thanks to them and all the other members who work tirelessly, sometimes in the background, on replenishing our sales stock, projects, repairing, sorting, spares and cleaning.

At our Saturday meeting I proclaimed that Mark Nisbet might not return and would stay up north. FAKE NEWS. Mike informed me after reading the minutes of Saturday's meeting, that he requires another little day surgery next week, then he will spend Easter with his grandchildren and then home. He sounded fantastic on the phone but requires some time to recover fully. In the beginning Mark thought he could only do jobs sitting down and thought that carving would be an interesting start. I promised him a chair and a lesson from John after he talked about the 'Boot'. We look forward to seeing you around the workshop as soon as you can.

On the shed front we had a slight hiccup with a new entrance of the artisan centre, but Eric as usual put pen to paper and incorporated the new shed in the layout drawing. The latest alterations are with the architect to be finalised ready for the development application. Eric's design of our shed looks great/functional and will fit nicely in the area.

Operating our workshop during inclement weather has limitations, fine water drops covered the thickener and planer near the door which had to be closed. During our committee meeting Barry

complained that his back was wet which was the right signal to close the meeting. Next time we will look for a shelter where they serve coffee & tea to conduct our meeting and I apologise to our productive members at the time for asking them not to make too much noise.

The production of toys and other sales items is in full swing for the Durras market which is our next big event. Hopefully we will have nice weather and plenty of people coming through.

Saturday's Show and Tell had some unusual and fantastic pieces on display which will probably be shown in this newsletter. Congratulations to them as I am always amazed what people come up with. On that note .. stay well, stay safe.

Helmut



Dates for Your Diary

Next General Meeting -

Saturday 6th May at Workshop, Dunns Creek Road at **1.00 pm** following BYO lunch at 12.00

Proposed Sales Days 2023 :

10 & 11 June (June Long Weekend) - Tilba Woodwork Exhibition , Tilba

Further sales days to be advised

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

SHOW 'N TELL

In the last newsletter, I unfortunately mixed up the photo of the box made by Peter Brotherton which was awarded first prize in Class 4 at the Moruya Show in January, with the photo of the box made by Rod Mckeown which was shown at the February general meeting - so apologies to both Pete and Rod. Here are the boxes again.



Peter's box which was included in the October / November newsletter is crafted from N.G. Rosewood, Jarrah and Mountain Ash with veneer inlay top, finished with Kunos oil. Once again, congratulations on your First Prize entry.



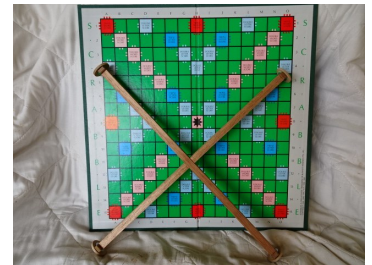
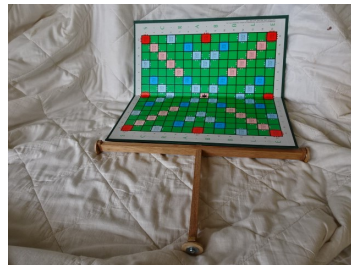
The box shown in the last newsletter (right) was made by Rod McKeown and is another fine example of box making. Rod used mixed timbers and finished it with wood polish.

SHOW 'N TELL - MARCH



These two toy cars are from a batch of six in total which have come from a friend of John Lodding. Judy Rafferty took on the job of cleaning them up and they are now available for the Club to sell.

This is a collapsible rotation platform for a scrabble board which was a regular sales item produced by our former President, Des Jeffery.



This is the first consignment of Tai Chi sticks which the club has taken on as an ongoing project to produce. They are made to specific specifications and have been produced by various club members. In fact as a post script to this, two of them were rejected as the timber used was too light!

SHOW 'N TELL - APRIL



The photo doesn't do this fantastic model of the Eiffel Tower justice. **Trevor Fletcher** used pine and a scroll saw to produce this 'to scale' model, which so far has taken 90 hours to make. He is not quite finished, and intends to paint the model once completed. We look forward to seeing the completed model.

Once again, the photo goes nowhere near doing justice to this piece crafted by **Jenny Barnes**. Jenny has named this piece "Lighthouse in a Stormy Sea, and was turned from a Coolabah Burl for the base (sea) and Huon Pine for the plinth (lighthouse). The jagged top of the burl represents the stormy sea.



This is a lidded turned container made by **Bob Shelley** using Sassafras, Merbau and Bottlebrush. The two photos above to the left is the base of the container and the underside of the lid — both items are precisely fitted together. Well done Bob!



Helmut Delrieux made this fantastic document box complete with pen case and pens, as seen on the left. Helmut used a combination of River Red Gum, Iron Bark, Kauri and Black Heart Sassafras, and finished with Kunos Oil.

All of these items need to be seen to fully appreciate the skills used to produce them.



SHOW 'N TELL - APRIL CONT'D ...

Three very different pieces - same maker - **Peter McDowell**. The two bowls on the right have been turned from an unknown piece of timber, apparently found in the stack of timber under the workshop bench; the square platter was turned from a piece of grey box, then trimmed to shape and finished with hard burnishing oil; and the small bowl was turned from radiata pine and Peter used a red stain to cover the internal surface of the bowl, then polished all with EEE and Shellawax.



Barry Fenning made these great gifts or sales items using Osage Orange - they are a pen, a honey dipper and a bottle opener.

Judy Rafferty turned these two lovely bowls - one using Tassie Blackwood, and the other using Mountain Ash.



The EWG team at the recent Durras Easter Markets. All reports suggest the market was another successful day for EWG, with many visitors attending and good sales made.

Many thanks to all who contributed in making items for sale and attending on the day to help out.

PROJECTS

THE LECTERN

During the latter part of 2022 the Woodies were approached about constructing a lectern by Gary Traynor who is the spokesperson for a group of volunteers operating as 'Moruya Matters' who were responsible for the maintenance of the WW11 bunkers located at the Moruya airport. One of their aims was to establish a memorial at the site and hence the need for a lectern to be used on ceremonial and commemorative occasions.



The project got off to a slow start due to emails going to spam folders and Gary's activities taking him out of the area at other times and it was early November before he managed to visit the workshop. Following that meeting a design was submitted and approved by late November. Because of other commitments and the early Christmas closure of the workshop no work was commenced until mid January. In the meantime I had some discussions with Gary about the actual military unit and if any signage would be appropriate and he advised that the unit was the 'Number 11 Operational Base Unit, RAAF'. At that time I suggested that I might be able to create an insignia to attach and we agreed to attempt that. That provided a project to think on over the Christmas break during which time I borrowed a scroll saw from the club to do some preparatory work cutting out basic outlines.

With the re-opening of the workshop in January David Keating and I set about constructing the actual lectern. It had been suggested that some reclaimed western red cedar 'logs' would be a suitable source for the main construction together with some re-cycled western red cedar panels obtained from Burra after the fires along with other panels of unknown origin.

We began by breaking down one of the two 'logs' splitting it into three lengths and machining to regular sizes. The design showed no detail other than overall finished dimensions so we set about dedicating the timber at hand to specific uses. The front and side panels were all tapered pieces and we decided to cut and assemble the two sides and front panel first as these pieces formed the shape of the finished article and the base and top were simply attachments to be added.

The two side panels were each constructed from three previously milled cedar planks which were dominoed together and the selected front panel pieces were glued up. The side panels are 15mm thick and the front panel is 6mm so the front panels were cut with a mitred corner and the side panels had to be cut with a mitre 6mm deep and then cut off square to form a seat for the front panel. The internal shelves were then fitted to secure the shape after which the top and base sections were added. The soft cedar external corners of the base and the column were fitted with river sheoak strips to lessen possible damage. The unit was finished off with a huon pine RAAF insignia and number 11 OBU plaque which had been an ongoing project over the previous 4 months.

We were informed at the handover of the completed unit that the RSL has now become involved in the restoration of the bunkers following the award of a substantial grant to install drainage systems to protect them from rising water levels and the lectern will be RSL property.

Pete McDowell

Post Script : Apparently the client was 'over the moon' with the final result of the lectern and expressed his gratitude on behalf of the Moruya Matters group to Peter and his team who delivered on time and above and beyond their expectations.

PROJECTS CONT'D ...

Some time ago Eric Simes asked if anyone was interested in making 3 ceremonial Staffs for the local Masonic Lodge. I looked at the sample that he had been given and put my hand up to give it a go with the bottom line that I could make some money for the club.

Alan Turner (from the Masons) came to the next workshop day with instructions for the items. He gave me the timber for the Staffs. The Staffs dimensions were 1000 x 32 x 32. From the photos you can see that there was a square section 180 long towards the top along with 31 grooves, 3mm apart above that section. The square section had to have slots 12mm wide and 80mm long on each face of the square. Also this section had to house 2 turned wooden balls, tricky I thought. Below the square section was a series of groups of beads. Groups of 7, 3, 5, 3, 2 and 1 were spaced evenly to the bottom.

I had to use the lathe at the workshop as I only have a short bed lathe at home. Once turning began, problems with vibrations occurred. The lathe "Steady" that came with the lathe was a homemade one that proved to be an ongoing problem as it didn't steady the work – it continually jumped out of alignment causing the timber to jump and vibrate terribly. I just had to work with it the best I could as there was no alternative.

I considered and tried making the Staffs in 2 and then 3 sections so I could eliminate the vibrations. Putting them together proved to be unsatisfactory also as drilling the end grain of the pieces went off-centre and looked hideous. Back to 1 piece and live with the vibrations!

I finally finished all 3 Staffs after much frustration with the "Steady". I made the balls out of red gum and inserting them by cutting a wider groove in one side of the square section. After the balls were put in I then glued a thin 1mm strip of the same timber to the wider slot to keep the balls in. Chips and tears were filled with putty and then a coat of Shellac was applied to seal the end grain in preparation for staining and finishing.

I'm happy to have finished this project as the time taken was a nightmare. I was hamstrung to a certain extent by the lack of a good "Steady" and a long bed lathe at home. I would however, have liked a better result for the club financially.

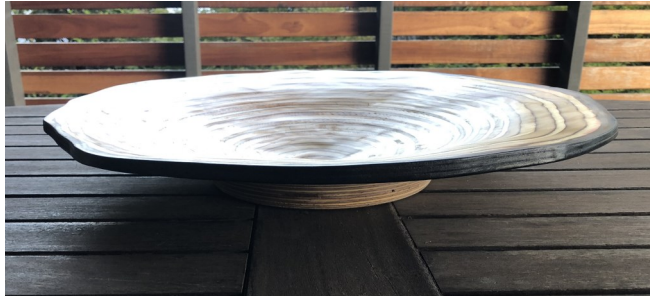
In closing, I would encourage anyone who is going to take on a project like this, to negotiate a price for material and effort before commencing.

David Smith



Close up of section housing wooden balls

HOME PROJECTS



Nick Hopkins has been busy in his home workshop, producing these two very interesting items ... the Tree Ring Bowl above simulates the cross section of a tree trunk to create something both functional and ornamental at the same time. It has been entered into the indoor section of the Sculpture for Clyde exhibition in Batemans Bay from May 26th to June 4th along with its wall mounted 910mm diameter big brother (below) – the Tree Ring Mandala. Both are turned and carved from Hoop Pine plywood and finished with Satin Cabothane



Sharyn Morrison has also been busy making this terrific Bath Table, using Camphor laurel. Sharyn finished with 3 coats of Kunos Natural Oil



DON'FORGET ... TILBA IS COMING !! (and quick !!)

There are many lovely and interesting pieces in this edition, and many more in previous issues. However, don't be limited by what you have already produced - get to and create another special entry for the 2023 South Coast Regional Woodwork Exhibition. Entries will be accepted right up to the week before the event which is held over the June Long Weekend — 10 and 11th.

Entry forms and conditions of entry will be sent out in a separate email shortly. If you are not able to enter an item, your valuable contribution by way of giving a hand behind our sales table, or to the event organisers will be welcome.

TIPS AND TRICKS

ROUTING TIPS

Recently I observed at the workshop that on serving boards or similar routing jobs the edges are badly burned. The same occurs when routing inner or outer curves where the grain direction and traveling speed changes. I had the same problems when using a 17mm half round router in a straight line for a pen box. Trying different timbers or smaller increments in the depths settings made no visual difference. A new router made all the difference, whatever timber or router seed I used no burn marks reoccurred. Recently I also had the pleasure to sand some toy elephants, where I used a 2mm radius round over router. The result was not that great which required more sanding.



For this router bit I selected the maximum speed of the router. The picture below the router speed was halved but the result was roughly the same just in different places as the grain runs in a different direction.



The result below, without visible burn marks, was achieved with the slowest router speed selected and was obviously as always, the last toy.



The router I used was not new but also not the oldest one on the shelf, I could not compare the result of different router bits.

A suggestion for round over jobs with routers above 2mm radius, I suggest to do several passes and the last pass to be very fine. One would use a sacrificial piece of wood to check the settings. .. Helmut

Edited by Christine Birks and Malcolm McDonald
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