

Eurobodalla Woodcraft Guild Inc

MEMBERS NEWSLETTER
November /December 2023



Presidents Report

Summer started with a vengeance, on the way to our last Saturday meeting the outside temperature indicator read 37° but a cool change hit as I arrived. As I was reading last year's report in regard to our rebuilding schedule, not much has changed despite Eric's efforts. It is probably very normal during a project, if one can't control everything and relies on others it becomes very difficult and frustrating. Anyway, I admire Eric as he never waivers in his pursuit to get a new shed.

Our last three markets we attended indicated some downturn but only slightly. The two Long Beach markets which we have never attended before were environmentally the exact opposite, the first one was hot and very windy, the second one wet but not windy. These conditions probably contributed to a smaller attendance rate than expected. The HHM market was okay but overall spending was down.

On reflection, last year was quite a good year in many departments. The attendance in the last quarter of the year went up to the point that one struggled to find a bench space which is good to see. Peter McDowell is building a dust collector machine house to free up some workshop space and keep the noise out of the workshop area. During the year Peter also built a lectern for an army unit with some extraordinary carving of their emblem. The gentleman who came to collect the lectern was absolutely gobsmacked when he laid his eyes on it. We also have some new, very comfortable benches in our lounge area designed and crafted by Malcolm with some help, built in three workshop days from slabs. These are just

three of the many projects we completed. We must not forget the unbelievable workmanship and effort Eric and his helpers invested in the Doll's House which was a resounding fundraiser success. The lucky winner of the draw for this outstanding piece of work was very pleased for her grandchildren.

At this point I would like to thank all the committee and members for their commitment and efforts to the club to make it a place of enjoyment, comradery and exchange of ideas. There are many others in the background who assist, help, advise, donate and support, I would like to thank you as well. Thanks again to our super sales women, Judy and Diana for their efforts in selling so many raffle tickets and thanks to Diana for the Doll's house furniture.

The Christmas party was very much enjoyed and I must thank all the helpers and food suppliers for a delicious lunch. It was impossible to try all savouries and sweets on offer - I tried very hard to complete the task. Thanks again for a very nice afternoon. Congratulations go to David Smith the 'Woody of the Year' and his supporter for their outstanding work and contribution to the club.

Next year will bring new challenges but we are used to that and will work through them.

Now it is time to relax, recharge your batteries and enjoy the festive season.

I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Helmut



SHOW 'N TELL - NOVEMBER



This bowl turned by **Garrard Muldoon** from a grass tree and finished with Carnauba Wax is such a contrast to Paul's vase (right), but both great examples of what you can produce with a piece of timber and imagination.



Paul Nolan made this fabulous vase using Silky Oak and finished with Danish oil and wax.

Garard also turned this lidded bowl using Banksia.



Judy Rafferty turned this pot pourri bowl from Sassafras, and finished with EEE & Shellawax. Judy has been one of John Turner's students during the year.



Helmut's cutting board using black butt and gidgee, finished with Kunos



This is a very interesting dish which has a live edge on one side. The photo to the left is the underside of the dish showing the amazing colour variance in the silky oak, turned by **Helmut**.



Peter McDowell made this fabulous replica of Sugarloaf Point Lighthouse



Barry Fenning turned this segmented bowl using radiata pine, china doll and western red cedar.

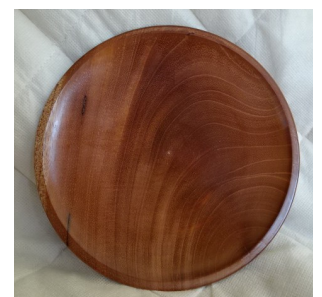


Bandsaw boxes using myrtle, huon pine, king billy pine, black heart sassafras, all finished with Kunos Oil



Peter also crafted these Gnomes using spotted Gum body, myrtle hat and fake fur, all finished with tongue oil

Helen Warland's platter turned from cedar and finished with EEE & Shellawax



SHOW 'N TELL - DECEMBER



Susan Page made this interesting bandsaw box from leftover pieces of timber. It is a 'work in progress' item which has been made using a bandsaw.



Helen Warland made this lovely bowl at John Turner's school of turning. Helen used Surian Cedar and finished it with EEE and Shellawax.



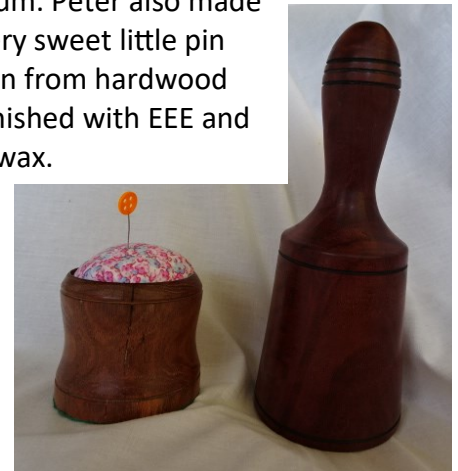
This carver's mallet was another piece from JT's workshop, this time from **Peter Criss**. He used a piece of hardwood with an unexpected feature.



Another carver's mallet from JT's workshop from **Peter Stubbs**, this one in Red Gum. Peter also made this very sweet little pin cushion from hardwood and finished with EEE and Shellawax.



Chris Birks used a piece of the recently slabbed Radiata Pine to make this large serving platter for the Club Sales Days. Steve Love applied the Kunos Oil as a food safe finish. The other board by Chris (below) was made from a piece in the workshop. The shape was determined by the grain of the timber.



This is a stool (which is based on a family heirloom) which the woodturners in JT's turning classes made for Rhona Jason Smith. Using Redgum the stool was made by John Tanner, Helen Warland, Jenny Barnes, Peter Criss and Pete Stubbs



Steve Love made this box from a piece of Qld Walnut, Black Heart Sassafras and finished with Kunos Oil. A great contrast of timbers!

Steve also made this box to house his flies for fishing using River Oak and finished with Kunos Oil. Inside the box were a few of his flies - hand made Steve?



SHOW 'N TELL - NOVEMBER

The Doll's House Story



Couldn't resist this photo of the clamps holding the roof together whilst Eric glued in the timber shingles piece x piece

As we all know over the past 6 months or so Eric has been working on building a dolls house as a fund raiser for our Club. Eric put a limit of 500 tickets to be sold for \$5 each, and needless to say, it was a sell-out. These photos don't do it justice - it truly is a magnificent piece of work with every piece hand made with amazing patience. I have highlighted the windows .. Each one individually made, and there are fourteen of them. Each timber tile on the roof was hand made and glued on individually. The photo shows the complex bracing required to make it all work. The staircases were also handmade including the handrail, banisters and steps and there are two of them. I could go on and on but it was definitely a work of art.

The winning ticket was drawn at our recent Christmas lunch by Helen Warland, and the lucky winner was a friend of Anne Salmon from Lilly Pilly. Apparently she was delighted to have won and intends to keep it for her granddaughter—lucky her!

In total, the funds raise by the raffle reached \$2,500, so many thanks Eric for all your effort, particularly given so much of your time is taken with trying to get our new Workshop off the ground.



Finished Dolls House



Close-up of the windows.



Specially made raffle ticket drum using Western Red Cedar, Maple, Radiata Pine and 6mm ply

Eric at the hand-over of the doll's house to the winner at Lilly Pilly



Helen drawing the winning ticket

LEONARD JOHN NEWMAN

14 September 1928 – 7 December 2023

Caring husband of Audrey and proud father to Lynda, Mark, Paul and Ian. Grandfather of 11 children and great-grandfather of 17 children.

A lasting Legacy of the Newman's.

The funeral service will be held at The Chapel at Gold Creek, O'Hanlon Pl, Nicholls on Tuesday, 19 December 2023, commencing at 12 noon. Private cremation.



Award made by Len many years ago since lost in the fire



Vale Len Newman

Len Newman joined the Eurobodalla Woodcraft Guild in the early nineties not long after the Guild was formed in 1987. Len drifted away from the guild for a number of years returning and sharing his expertise in wood turning with our members. Len would conduct wood turning lessons in his own workshop for those interested which briefly included me. He was a perfectionist in his craft and expected the same from his students. Len was the instigator of the "Woody of the Year Award" and made the first trophy which was a rolling pin featuring a Celtic pattern throughout. Len Newman was also awarded an Honorary Membership by his fellow club members.

Malcolm McDonald

Vale Barry Corrigan

Barry has been a long standing member of our club, joining the Eurobodalla Woodcraft Guild in the mid 1990's. In the early years Barry was always involved in the club workshop which was at that time held in members' garages as the club didn't have a formal workshop until 2010. Making crafted items for our many sales days, he was supported at these events by his wife Annette. Barry was very fond of classical music and decided to build a scaled down version of a harp which he played regularly at home and on one occasion at a club meeting. Barry was so well respected by his fellow members that he was given the status of an Honorary Member of the Guild.



CHRISTMAS CHALLENGE

The gauntlet was thrown down again this year by Eric. Members will remember in the past this Challenge was proposed by past member John Clement. The Challenge this year is to structurally join two pieces of timber together without using any form of adhesive, nails, screws or belts. There were many interesting entries, and the winning piece was chosen not necessarily for its beauty, but for it's simplicity. And the winner was **RICK STANFORD**



Rick said he spotted some old electrical pliers on the workbench and had a light globe moment. He drew the outline onto a piece of old pine and cut around the outline, then pressed one into the other vertically and it stuck!! That will do he thought - voila, job done!



Other entries were :



Peter Stubbs - 'T' Dovetail



John Tanner - Square peg in a round hole



Dave Smith - Halving stops dovetail joint



Eric Sims - similar join to Helmut's. Eric said it is often used in boat building



This shows the other side of Eric's join



Peter Brotherton - small trivet or cutting board. Method - A sliding dovetail, dowel, wooden anchoring pin



Helmut - Long Japanese join - reusable in that you can pull apart and rejoin



Peter McDowell - Square with hole using pine which expands and contracts a lot. Soak the square and whilst it has expanded hammer the dowel into the hole. When the square dries out and contracts you have a tight join.

WOODY OF THE YEAR AWARD

The Woody of the Year for 2023 was awarded to **Dave Smith**.

Dave received this award for his constant willingness to lend a hand when things need doing. This ranges from using his trailer to collect timber donations from properties or machinery; when timber needs to be stored off site - where does it go? to Dave's property. Dave also put his hand up to be our Grants officer along with Rick Stanford, plying through the grants process and successfully gaining valuable grants for the Club. The most recent success was the IMB grant for machinery, which is being purchased this year. In addition, Dave has contributed to the sales days stock of merchandise, raising funds to keep us going. He also helps and instructs members at his workshop to complete projects. So Dave, many thanks for all those hours and miles travelled as a valuable member of our Club.



CHRISTMAS PARTY 2023

Another successful one has come and gone with very good attendance by members and their partners. Helmut thanked all those who contributed their favourite salad

or desert, which all went down a treat. Special thanks also to the chefs. Here are just a few photos.



to



Judy Rafferty received a bottle of bubbles for her very persuasive raffle ticket sales tactic at the Long Beach Market.

Diana Seppings

received a bottle of bubbles for her very generous donation of dolls house furniture and her sales of raffle tickets at the Long Beach Markets. Di isn't even a member !!



HOME PROJECTS

Club Catalina has 27 golf holes which permits three combinations of 18 holes. Whilst the members know their way around the various combinations, for visitors it can be a challenge on their first few visits to the club.

For my sins, I had previously made for the club 27 new tee posts with the appropriate hole number routed into visible surfaces using numeral templates. When management asked if I could make some signs for around the club house to help direct players to the correct tees and practice facilities, I realised this was a much bigger task. A quick plan revealed that 19 arms were required on six posts, to hold 50 individual signs, with the message routed into both sides of each sign. The task was huge for this amateur woodworker.



For both the earlier tee posts, and for these new six signposts, the timber was obtained from Thor's Hammer in Canberra, who specialise in recycled timber. With Iron Bark and Red Gum posts cut and dressed to 190 x 190 x 2500, you are talking about considerable weight. I could not lift the posts on my own, but could manage to roll them around my workshop floor without crushing any fingers. Cutting the mortice through the Iron Bark post was a challenge, with good advice coming from Helmut, Peter McD and Eric. The arms were dressed by Thor's Hammer down to 100 x 38 and cut to length.

The timber for the signs was also recycled from the same source, with a mix of Iron Bark, Red Gum, and a couple of planks of unknown. I ripped down the rough sawn and very old 140 x 24 x 25 LM into the 50 signs at 100 x 600 on my own bench saw and then used our club's thicknesser to dress the rough sawn timber and the project was on track.

The router work for the 100 signs was beyond my capacity. Helmut organised an introduction to the Narooma Woodies and the problem was solved. Over two full day, John Ray from Narooma Woodies operated their very large and expensive CNC machine to produce a very neat message on both sides of all the signs. We were not sorry when we finished the last one!

A lot of router work on our club's router table shaped the top surfaces of the arms and signs to help repel water and my own drill press drilled the holes for the marine grade stainless steel wire to pass through the 50 signs x 2. 100 individual collar locks were fitted into the bottom of the signs, leaving a very clean sign with the terminators and wire pre-painted black.

I completely masked out the exposed surfaces of the signs, then spray painted three white coats for the words using Berger acrylic paint from Inspiration Paints, sanding off the excess paint with an orbital sander. The resulting message is easy to read and should last for many years. That's it - management, as with the tee posts, does not want any protection applied to the timber, but just let it weather off to a soft grey, which the 27 tee posts have already done and look very natural.

I learnt a lot from the experience, and I certainly learnt (again) that Iron Bark is appropriately named - I sharpened Helmut's Mortice chisels, that he kindly lent me, many times during the process, but the result is pleasing, and I am certain I will not have to worry about replacing the posts or arms before I depart the planet. The night vandals, which are prolific around the club, will no doubt try to damage or deface the signs and I expect they will succeed, but I bet they will not damage the timber.

I have suggested to Club Catalina management that they may like to make a Club Grant to our Woodies. They did give \$500 to the Narooma Woodies for services rendered in helping me out with the router work of the signs, so fingers crossed, and yes, I will be reminding them regularly.

Thanks to all those members who showed interest in what I was doing when I was at the club over the last few months with various components of the project. Now back to making toys I suspect.

Pete Criss



Long Beach Market

This year we used the Long Beach Spring and Christmas Fairs to sell our produce. As Helmut said in his monthly meeting report, sales were down due to a contributing number of issues, i.e. weather on the days, and the downturn in our economy. Nevertheless it was definitely worth our while to be there, and the plan is to participate again next year.

**Don't forget the first
Workshop day in the
new year is **8th January**
at the workshop, Mogo**

Edited by Christine Birks and Malcolm McDonald

Club Website : www.eurobodallawoodies.org.au

Email : ewg.mogo@yahoo.com

Dates for Your Diary

Next General Meeting :

Saturday 3rd February, 2024 at our Workshop, Dunns Creek Road at **1.00 pm** following BYO lunch at 12.00

Proposed Sales Days 2024 :

Eurobodalla Show, Moruya, January - Sat. 27 -

Set up from 7.00 am with gates open at 9.00 to 7.00 pm and Sun 28 from 9.00 to 5.00 pm.

Durras Markets - Easter Saturday 30 March.

Tilba Show - Saturday and Sunday 8th and 9th June. Set up Friday 7 June from midday.

Long Beach - Spring and Christmas Fairs. Dates TBA

Hospital Handmade Markets - November TBC

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