

# *Eurobodalla Woodcraft Guild Inc*

**MEMBERS NEWSLETTER  
DECEMBER 2021**

## **President's Christmas Message**

Hi All

The year is coming to a close and we reflect on the past & look to the future and hope for a better one next year. Reflecting on our Guild the year was marred by constant interruptions but we achieved a lot to have a new workable home to pursue our interests. Our last get together to celebrate Christmas was very enjoyable with the variety of lovely food and company. I wish to thank everybody for your help, time and effort over the year to make our lives just that little bit better. Have a wonderful Christmas and a happy new Year and see you all next year with all the enthusiasm you can muster.



## **WOODY OF THE YEAR AWARD**



**Barry Fenning** was awarded the Woody of the Year 2021. This is probably long overdue, but he has had very worthy competition for this prestigious Award in the past. Barry is a stalwart of the club from his innovative designs and creations, not to mention his commitment to always being there if you ask for volunteers. Barry is an enthusiastic member of the slabbing team and makes a great contribution, which we all benefit from. If ever a chain saw starts during slabbing, without fail Barry hangs on the other end - Barry knows what he is doing and does it well. Barry is one of those members who is always there, he is always doing something, always helpful, never complains - an all-round good guy. Unfortunately, when his name was

announced at the Christmas Party, he was otherwise detained in the toilet. He returned to the meeting to a thundering applause, which was a great surprise to him. He was delighted when told of his award, but felt humbled and nondeserving - well Barry, we had other thoughts. Congratulations!

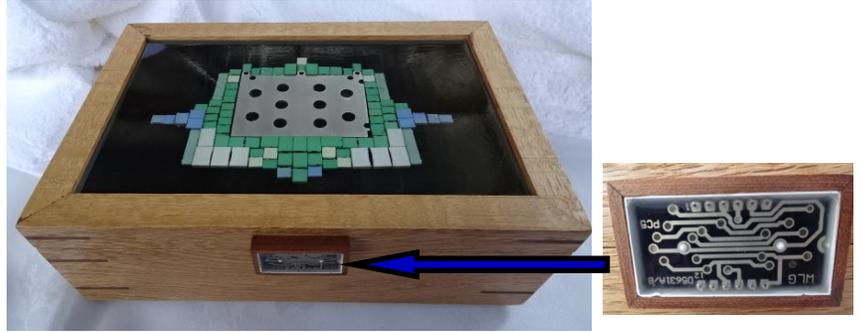
# CHRISTMAS PARTY 2021

Wasn't it good to be in our own workshop again this year, surrounded by our machinery, timber, and of course fellow members and their partners. The 2021 Woody of the Year was announced and celebrated; we had a bit of fun with the Christmas Challenge; and of course the amazing repast served up by our team on the BBQ, our members who brought along the delicious salads and sweets, and this year, we even had a seafood extravaganza so kindly donated by the team at the Clyde River Oyster Farm! This generosity came about after we delivered the tables they ordered. They were 'over the moon' with the quality and the timber used, and wanted to show their appreciation. So our deep thanks go to them for a very special lunch. Don't forget, if you are looking for a casual lunch venue, sitting alongside the beautiful Clyde River, relaxing in a rustic environment with excellent seafood - the Oyster Shed is the place. They have oysters and prawns and other seafood, seafood chowder in the winter or quiche, coffee and cakes. Mention you are from the Eurobodalla Woodys and you are sure to get a good table!



# SHOW 'N TELL

**Keith Hartas** has been making boxes using Oak discarded from federation furniture, sanded down to 2,000 grit and finished using Feast & Watson wipe on poly. Keith decorated the lid of the box to the right using computer parts set in clear epoxy resin. Note the front of this box decorated with a computer chip.



The lid of the box to the left is decorated using a Preston Colliery survey levelling staff.



This lidded vessel was crafted by **Bob Shelley** using Blackheart Sassafras, combined with an unknown contrasting timber, both separated by a dark strip of hardwood, repurposed from old chair legs.



**Barry Fenning** made this beautiful serving board using Silky Oak which was retrieved from the 2019 fires, hence the dark edges, combined with a Cypress middle. A very interesting combination of colour, made special by sanding down to 800 grit paper. Barry finished with Food Safe Oil.

Barry also made this clock using the burl donated by Peter Bashford a few months ago.



The key hangers below were also works by Barry, this time using White Cedar, decorated by metal badges, one a Harley-Davidson motor bike, the other a pod of dolphins.



## SHOW 'N TELL CONT'D ...

**Peter Nolan** continues to impress with another turned vessel. This one is from Deodar Cedar (or Himalayan Conifer), The darker timber is Australian Red Cedar and he achieved the colour difference by using side grain and end grain. Re the Deodar Cedar:- *Cedrus deodara*, the "deodar cedar", "Himalayan cedar", or "deodar" is a species of cedar native to the western Himalayas. It grows at altitudes of 1,500–3,200 m (5,000–10,000 ft).



**Len Newman** made this lovely box using Blackwood. The contrasting corner joints are actually the end grain of the same timber made using a circular saw, rather than a router and jig. The precision of the cutting of the joints is amazing! Len decorated the lid with a strip of inlay.



Another box by **Keith Hartas** below is such a contrast to Len's, but equally as interesting. Keith used timber from an old ship's keel which had been eaten away by ship worms. Keith found this timber on the beach, and made good use of it.



This is an interesting piece from **Malcolm**. He had made this Puzzle using a solid piece of Ironbark and routed 33 holes on the top using a router bit in the drill press, then routed the perimeter and edges with the table router, then finished with U Beut oil. The aim of the puzzle is to leap-frog over another marble, then remove it to the perimeter until you only have one marble left - simple? No, because the last remaining marble must be in the centre hole.

I am not sure if it's a sales item, a Christmas present, or if Mal is thinking of whiling away his spare time over Christmas trying to beat Jill at this game.



# SHOW 'N TELL CONT'D ...

Last month Paul Nolan brought into Show N Tell his beautiful ginger jar using segments, etc. I asked how he went about making the jar, and so he sent the article with a detailed description of the involved process. Rather than include in this newsletter, I have attached the description with this newsletter for those interested in the challenge. I am sure Paul would be only too pleased to help you achieve this amazing vessel.

## Herb Garden

As one gets older and lazier, it turns into a major event to get some herbs from the garden after dark. Obviously you bring the garden to your deck which is on the same level and very close to the kitchen. The seven planter boxes are made from fence palings we had in abundance at DCR. After selecting the straightest palings they were run through a thicknesser for a cleanup. Then the palings were cut to length for the sides & bottoms and then screwed together. The bottom palings have a gap in the middle for drainage. A marabou floorboard was installed below the handrail where the planter boxes are hung on with a simple bracket made from fence paling. Helmut



## Potting Table

If you are struggling with lockdowns and the urge to build something, build a potting table. The legs are manufactured from the first cut of a log and trimmed on both sides. The two legs on each side are connected



with a beam on the top and bottom on the inside. The bottom connecting beams are the supports for the bottom shelf manufactured from salvaged fence lattice. Top connecting beams hold the table top into place which was manufactured out of Blackbutt slabs. A drawer hangs under the table with iron bark rails running in L shape guides. Above the table shelf system is manufactured out of a pallet with a planter box on the back for camouflage. Considerable effort was spent dismantling the pallet before reassembly. The whole thing sits on stirrups concreted into the ground. Helmut

# PROJECTS

In September this year I was approached by the owner of the “Oyster Shed on Wray St” to see if our club would be interested in making some table tops for their outdoor area. I was told that they were not able to get tradesmen (cabinet makers) to make these tops, and they were needed by December so they could cater for their growing business around the Christmas holiday period. I told them that I would put the idea to the club at the next meeting. I did this at the next committee meeting and it was agreed to help out.

The first step in the process was selecting the timber that was going to be used. Spotted Gum, that had been slabbed from timber on our block in Hanna Place early in 2020, was chosen as it had seasoned well and had good grain appearance. Through a grant we obtained from the IMB, we had purchased a thicknesser and bandsaw. The workshop then was used in the dressing of all 24 planks that would eventually be used to make the table tops for the 4 table frames that had been made for the oyster shed. We finished them with two coats of shellac and then organ oil.

The help of members feeding timber through the table saw and thicknesser, gluing and then sanding the tops before finishing, was greatly appreciated by myself and Malcolm MacDonald. As a result of our efforts the club has been paid \$1800 for these table tops ... Dave Smith



*Our first slabs cut from Spotted Gum Logs in Hanna Place.*



*Barry and John running the planks through our new thicknesser*



*Chris and Mal using the table saw to cut straight edges prior to gluing.*



*Close up of table top*

# PROJECTS cont'd ...

This is a follow up photo of the bench seat for the lady at Tilba. Liz Dennis has positioned the seat on the hill top overlooking the coast and ocean views where her late Husband would sit. She held a small ceremony with friends for the occasion. Again she thanked us for making the seat.



This is one of the platters made using the offcuts from the tables made for the Oyster Shed. A variety of helpers trimmed the pieces to size, glued, filled the fiddle back patterns, sanded and eventually completed by Malcolm at home. We were only able to get a few sales days in this year due to Covid restrictions, but the sales from these days were very good, so a shout went out for more sales items. I believe these boards and platters were a great winner. The good thing about them is none of the offcut spotted gum was wasted.

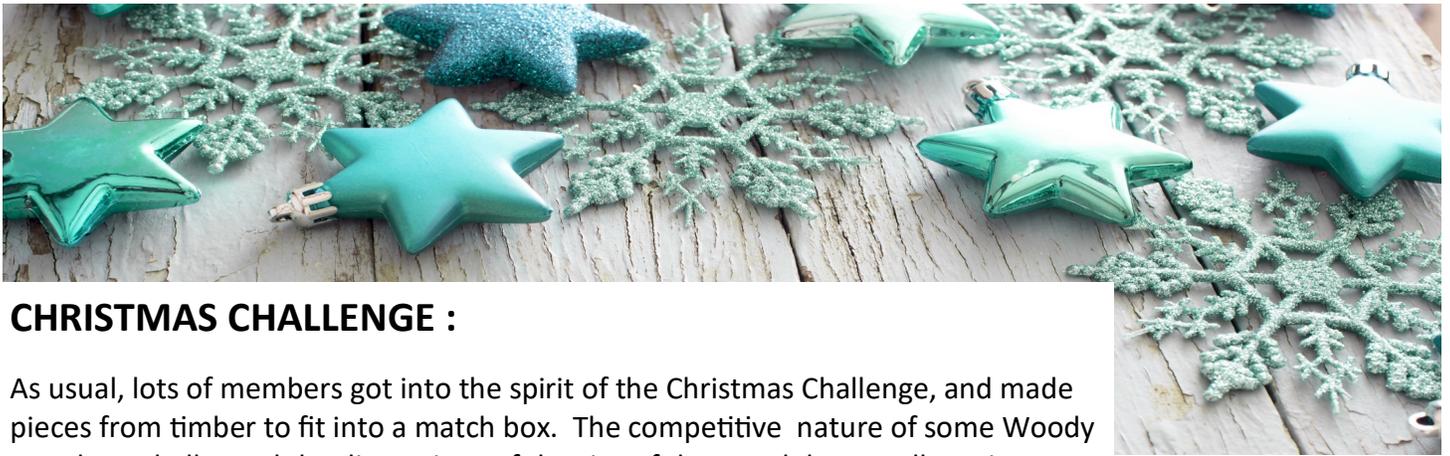
## Chair Repair ...



We did not take any pictures at the time when we received the chair but the front right leg was broken through about half way on the barley twist section. The general opinion was that one could repair the chair by gluing it back together but nobody could ever sit on it again. The timber was of inferior quality and the inner diameter on the twist was between seven and eight millimetres which is very thin. We also observed that all the glue joints were loose which made the chair unstable and that was probably the reason the chair leg broke. All that was conveyed to the owner and we suggested installing additional structural elements to enhance the stability. This was agreed on and we started to dismantle the chair apart from the back rest and legs. The broken leg was glued back together and the missing pieces were replaced with poxy. In

addition 6mm holes were drilled into the front legs from the bottom and a metal rod was inserted. Also a hardwood upright was installed behind the barley twist section between the seat rail and the bottom rail. At one point during the reassembly it was noticed that the left back leg was also cracked below the seat rail. The crack could not be noticed from the outside but evident on the inside of the leg. A 400mm straight slot was routed into the inside of the backrest down to leg as far as possible. The slot was filled with poxy and a 6mm steel rod was inserted and covered with a fitted piece of timber. An additional bar was fitted between the back legs for further stabilisation. All dowels were replaced and the chair was glued together again with some screws inserted and covered with fitting dowels. A mixture of stain and

Black-Japan was made up to cover the additional pieces of wood. Looking at the job retrospectively it was interesting and challenging but never again. Helmut



**CHRISTMAS CHALLENGE :**

As usual, lots of members got into the spirit of the Christmas Challenge, and made pieces from timber to fit into a match box. The competitive nature of some Woody members challenged the dimensions of the size of the match box so all entries were accepted – well done Sue (aka “the judge”).



The smiling winners of the Christmas Challenge : from the left

- Paul Nolan** with his intricate turned double ring thingy;
- Len Newman** who turned a hand warmer
- Susanne Page** (our judge);
- Rick Stanford** with his puzzle;
- Malcolm Macdonald** with his hollow heart shaped box, complete with a silver locket inside.



Malcolm McDonald



Rick Stanford



Paul Nolan



Len Newman



Eric Simes



Judy Rafferty



Peter Brotherton



Gerrard Muldoon



Keith Hartas



Chris Birks



Unknown (sorry!)

Apologies to Peter McDowell for not having a photo of his gorgeous little butterfly within a specially made box.



Helmut Delrieux

## *Dates for Your Diary*

**Recommence 2022** - Monday January 10

**Next General Meeting** - Saturday 5th February, 2022

**Proposed Sales Days 2021 : All Covid restrictions dependent.**

**NOTE:** *Members seeking further information contact :*

**Secretary Eric Simes (02) 4471 5086**

*Edited by Christine Birks and Malcolm McDonald*

**Club Website :** [www.eurobodallawoodies.org.au](http://www.eurobodallawoodies.org.au)

**Email :** [ewg.mogo@yahoo.com](mailto:ewg.mogo@yahoo.com)