

# *Eurobodalla Woodcraft Guild Inc*

## **MEMBERS NEWSLETTER** February 2018

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

February has seen activity in the workshop move up a gear, Eric and his team have been busy with the restoration of the Moruya Historical Society's 1950's phone box, Malcolm and his team have been busy slabbing very tight spotted gum, Ralph has been leading a team making Adirondack chairs for a Canberra couple and I have had a team working on the honour boards for the Broulee SLSC. Other members have been working on a series of projects for themselves and participating in SIG's with John Tanner and Malcolm. Linda, Ray and Malcolm have also been busy making didgeridoo stands for a local artist. Peter, the artist, has offered to help us with decorative painting if we have any projects that could be enhanced that way. His work is very good.

The new lathe area has been expanded slightly by moving the wing wall nearest the compactus units about 350mm into the workshop space. This has made the operation of the new Harvey lathe much safer. Don Geeves has been "running in" the new unit turning the legs for the Adirondack chairs and has been impressed with its performance.

On the new deck area an external power point has been placed under the handrail nearest the lake. This is not an additional point but an extension run from one of the original power points in the verandah area. You will also find two new 0.5kg dry powder fire extinguishers have been acquired. One is located on the pole that used to be the corner of the verandah and the other is on the rear of the door into the cyclone dust extractor area. Please make yourself familiar with those locations as well as the location of the two units in the main workshop area, just in case you ever need to find one quickly.

The committee are currently reviewing our insurances and will be discussing the initial report at their next meeting in early March. They will also be discussing possible stock changes that might result in more interesting and/or educational activities associated with club work. Any suggestions members might like to offer in that regard would be welcome for consideration.

On the topic of club days, it is disappointing that no one has offered to make themselves available to be in charge of the toy making activities. It is even more disappointing to note that many members are not contributing time to club projects on club days. This is the time of year when we can top up our stocks without too much pressure. Everyone doing a little achieves a lot so please pitch in.

I know all members will be saddened to know that Len Newman will no longer be attending the work shop due to family commitments. Len's work has been an inspiration to many members over the years and we will all miss the little words of wisdom and subtle challenges offered by Len on his visits to the shop. Thank you Len for your contribution to the Woodies and thank you Audrey for lending us your man. We wish you both well.

Pete McDowell

# “OFFCUTS”

*Or bits that are happening in the Workshop*

## **Machine Demonstrations:**

The workshop machine demonstration program 2018 will recommence in February 2018 with demonstrations happening on the 2nd & 4th Workshop Wednesday of each month.

## **Special Interest Groups (SIG):**

Members interested in joining a Special Interest Group are encouraged to contact the club President or Secretary. Members can list their intentions to either participate in a group or suggest a new skill they would like to learn.

## **Projects in the Workshop:**

Eric and his team have been busy with the restoration of the Moruya Historical Society's 1950's phone box. The sides of the phone box have been restored ready for glazing while the front door and phone box support legs are being cut and assembled.

Ralph has been leading a team making the pair of Adirondack chairs for a Canberra couple. Don Geeves has almost completed turning the front legs while Ralph is cutting the framework.

Pete McDowell is leading the team who have almost finished the honour boards for the Broulee SLSC.

## *Dates for Your Diary*

Sat 3rd March 2018 Monthly Meeting  
Wed 7th March 2018 Committee Meeting

Workshop Days Each Mon & Wed Mogo  
Workshop Toy Days 1st & 3rd Wed Mogo  
Workshop Demonstrations 2nd & 4th Wed Mogo

## **Proposed Sales Days 2018:**

Sat 31st March 2018 Durras Markets  
19th & 20th May 2018 River of Art (Workshop)  
9th & 10th June 2018 Tilba Woodshow  
29th September 2018 Sales Day Village Centre  
November 2018 Hospital Hand Made Markets  
24th November 2018 Sales Day Village Centre

*NOTE: Members seeking further information contact  
Secretary Eric Simes 02 44715086*

## **February Show & Tell**



Gary Muldoon has made a Polaris Pen from an offcut of River She Oak with a very characteristic grain pattern. The grain pattern caught Gary's eye and just for the heck of it he turned the pen to see the result. The pen blank was sanded up 2000 grit and finished with Gary's technique of a liquid wax soaked into the wood and then 5 layers of hard wax applied while spinning in the lathe.



Barry Fenning has continued making steam train models but this one is for his own display shelf as a trophy. It's larger than the usual models he makes for the sales table and a little different. The wheels and boiler are turned from branches of Red Gum sourced from the Runnyford slabbing excursion and the chassis and smoke funnel is heart wood from Sydney Red Gum while the crew cab is Vic Ash. Barry finished the project with polyurethane.



JJ McGrath is developing a library in his home to accommodate his vast collection of reference books and “bric-a-brak” collected from his many travels around the world. JJ’s wall library in progress is constructed from solid Baltic Pine with the cupboard doors displaying his trademark carved ornamental shapes, bold brass hinges and of course JJ’s famous glass crystal knob handles. It is a work in progress so we look forward to the completed report down the track.



An old mate of mine who’s a very keen card player has taken up canasta with the local afternoon card group. I was asked to design and make a suitable and simple card holder/dispensing box which could be passed around the table where players can easily take a new card during the game. The box is made from Tassie Myrtle and finished with Organ Oil. *Ed*



February is the month for chopping boards and a successful SIG course nearing completion. Full report in next month’s newsletter. This board was made from off cuts of spotted Gum from the large cutting board ordered last month which were destined for the fire box. Never throw offcuts out!! The board is finished with Beaut Polishes Eco Oil. *Ed*





# Cameron's

# HARDWARE

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# MEMBERS CORNER

Sharyn Morrison was given a very ambitious task by her youngest son to make a desktop for his study, and she decided to use 3 slabs of the River She Oak brought from Ralph's Vines property. The arduous task of splitting the slabs, then reducing down to 40mls thick, then putting through the thick-nesser was both noisy and difficult given these tasks had to be done whilst the workshop was devoid of people due to the possible allergies experienced with this type of timber.

Over many weeks Sharyn had willing helpers to assist handling this heavy timber. Finally the timber was trimmed to size, and was able to be glued to give the desired width of the desktop.

The next step, was to prepare the ends, made more difficult due to Sharyn's wish to keep one side of the desktop in it's natural state. So as not to damage this feature, Helmut used his ingenuity to devise clamps using thick dowel and a cross section of wood to secure the ends to the desktop (see photo). After inserting the biscuit joints to strengthen the join, it was only a simple matter then to glue and clamp.



As always, things don't always go to plan, and it was found the circular saw guide was not exactly straight, thus creating a bow. Even with the 'encouragement' of a mallet it was unsightly, so off they came, glue washed off in a hasty fashion, and the ends recut. Still no joy, so after two more attempts of cutting with the same saw, an alternate saw was tried, and success, a clean cut was made, the ends re-glued and clamped.



Sharyn and Helmut put the additional space of the new workshop deck to good use, and blessed the team of Woodies who made it possible. Sharyn's desktop is going to be a 'family affair' as her other son is designing and making the desktop legs using a thick metal frame to stabilize the long span of the timber and prevent warping. This will also give a masculine impact.

Eventually, her son will be the proud owner of a personalised masterpiece and no doubt be very grateful and proud of his very clever Mum (with the invaluable assistance of Helmut particularly, but also other Woodies who have helped in the process).

We hope to have a photo of the finished project in the next edition of the Woodies Newsletter. *Article by Christine Birks*





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