

# *Eurobodalla Woodcraft Guild Inc*

## MEMBERS NEWSLETTER

January 2020

### President's report

Hi everybody, I hope you are all well as anybody can be and your families are safe. Fires have not impacted us directly here in Durras but I got the wind knocked out of me over the last two months and I cannot comprehend how people who have lost can handle the pain. To our friends Nick & Heike who lost their house and David & Wendy who lost everything except their house, our thoughts are with you and any help you may need you know where we live.

The loss of our workshop has impacted all our lives in different ways and I cannot describe my feelings precisely - I just feel slightly numb. But I can assure you that we the committee are doing our utmost to resurrect our club to be bigger and better.

From our current information we are doubtful that the Gold Rush Colony will be resurrected as it was and we would like to rebuild our shed on public land. This will allow us to have a more permanent and secure future. We currently have an offer of private land near Mogo which we will keep if all other efforts fail. Letters went out to the Council and Andrew Constance begging for a piece of land but no answers as yet. Our preference for the shed would be to be part of or near the botanical gardens where infrastructure already exists. Also the gardens are near our old premises which would not impact considerably on travel time for our members.

Our insurance claim has been submitted for machinery and tools but we do not expect a fast settlement due to the amount of claims lodged. Unfortunately all our timber has been destroyed and is not insurable which constitutes a major loss to our club. Not only is the loss terrible but the endless hours of hard work gone out the window.

Consequently we will go ahead with the purchase of the new sawmill which is partly funded through a Federal Government grant to allow us to mill some

timber which is currently available in abundance. Timber has to dry over some years before it can be used so it becomes a priority and David has offered to store the slabs at his property.

Some of our members sifted through the ashes and collected some hand tools we could resurrect and they are currently soaking in cleaning fluids. If the steel is not tempered the tools require a new handle and we are back in business. I collected some hand planes from the rabble where the brass knobs have melted which constitutes temperatures above 800 C°.



It is overwhelming to receive offers of help in all shape and sizes, notably toys from the Canberra Woodies, second hand woodworking machinery from other Men's Sheds and private workshops. The problem is currently the storage of the goods; my workshop has already several trip hazards. I was just informed that containers are on offer for storage and our soccer shed in Durras can be used.

Nick is applying for every grant available to secure a viable future for our club. We also have a 'gofundme' page with a great little video produced by Nick.

I hope I could give you an outline of what we are doing in the meantime and if you have withdrawal symptoms please find a place/workshop on offer to use to make something for the Durras Market at Easter or Tilba.

If I can borrow a line from Nick H. "We are starting to see it as an opportunity rather than a massive kick in the guts (which it also is)".

Stay safe, be well and see you soon.

Helmut

P.S. Ralph Vine sends his apology for Saturday's meeting. He had to celebrate his ninetieth birthday which counts as an acceptable excuse. HAPPY BIRTHDAY RALPH!

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As Helmut mentioned in his report, Nick Stone has set up a 'Go Fund me' site, which you may wish to share with your friends and/or family. Nick has done a tremendous job of putting this site together, linking it to all our activities to enthuse people to help us in our endeavours to rebuild, or as Nick put it "rise from the ashes like the proverbial Phoenix"

Go fund me site. sits <https://gf.me/u/xgc67j>.



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John Tanner has appealed to Woodies members if they could locate small hand tools, e.g. screw drivers, planes, chisels, saws, etc, which he will restore for the Club. Please contact JT direct on 4472 8653 or 0419 801039 or email [johnjan155@bigpond.com](mailto:johnjan155@bigpond.com)

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## When the going gets tough the tough get going - that's us!

### Home workshops on offer :

You will have seen in various emails from Eric Simes, many of our members have volunteered their home workshops to other members in an effort to continue the good work and mon ami within our club. As a courtesy to these generous members, if you wish to avail yourself of this offer, could you please give the member a call to check their availability and ensure you sign **in and out** of their workshop as you would normally do. This is for ongoing insurance purposes.

### Summary of available workshop :

Peter Brotherton, Catalina - 2 to 3 members at a time. His number is 4472 5021 / 0409 737255

Dave Smith, Batemans Bay - availability for 1 turner and 2 other general workshop uses. 4472 2508 / 0402 354948

Malcolm McDonald, South Durras - 2 to 3 members at a time. 4478 6645 / 0408 495089

Helmut Delrieux, South Durras - 2 to 3 members at a time. 4478 6816

Val Byrne, Surfside - has a heap of toys to be finished and a few miscellaneous articles. 4472 6824.

Mark Barraclough, Mossy Point - Wed, Thursday and Friday mornings 2—3 people at a time 0412 689075

Eric Sims, Guerilla Bay - 2 to 3 members at a time. 4471 5086 / 0418 655588

John Tanner, Batehaven - is running his turning classes for 2 people starting 3.2.20. 4472 8653 / 0419



First meeting of the year at Grumpy and Sweethearts, Mogo on 13th January Attendance 39, which represents approx. two thirds of our total membership !





## THANK YOU BOB

Past President and member Bob Crisp, learned of our dilemma after the fires and promptly donated a fine lathe and other tools that he had packed up to sell. Included is a Nova swivel head lathe complete with a full set of HSS tools, 2 scroll chucks with accessories and many specialist tools. He also donated boxes of pen making blanks, tools and finishes. In addition he also donated a very good Delta floor mounted drill press. The pen gear is in the hands of Barry Fenning and the lathe and tools have been installed in John Tanner's workshop for the wood turning courses starting on February 3. Bob's generous donations came at a very good time for the Club!



Nova lathe



Lathe tools and accessories





# SHOW & TELL

(from the meeting held at Durras on Wednesday, January 22)

Barry Fenning made this most unusual but very clever side table from a hunk of red gum he found on the rubbish heap, and used a piece of Sally Wattle for the stand. He finished the top with hard burnishing oil. Note the beautiful grain and colours of the red gum.



David Smith crafted this kitchen utensils holder from Huon pine end enhanced with a gumnut which he turned and split in half, then carved gum leaves.



Peter McDowell has been up to his old trick again, gluing and turning materials to form this lovely set of tumblers. Peter used River She Oak and Norfolk Pine alternately, separated by narrow pieces of Australian Cedar. They sit on a base which was glued and then turned to fit the tumbler. He finished with polyurethane.

Mike Barkley has been busy at home over the Christmas break, making these two grazing boards. To the right he has used contrasting timbers of spotted gum, ironbark and mountain ash, then decorated with inserts of red gum with a merbau spot. The ends/handles are mountain ash and the utensil handles have been turned from spotted gum.





## SHOW & TELL, cont'd



To the left and below is a very special piece from Mike. He took this piece of spotted gum home at the end of last year to make this grazing platter, not knowing all else would be lost to the fires. Mike retained the natural edge of the slab to use as a feature, then routed inserts for the bowls and utensils.



## SHOW & TELL (from the meeting held at Durras on Saturday, February 1)

Fire irons made by Warren Randell out of reinforced rod (non-combustible) and replaceable handles of wood (combustible)



Wooden block planes being made by Helmut from non-flammable timbers



Above "Spatulas made by Trevor Fletcher from timbers so secret he could not tell us (or did not remember)

## Sales Days

The cancellation this year of the Moruya Agricultural Show due to the fires in the area, was a blow to our income from sales days, as traditionally this was a real money spinner for us (the fact that all our stock had been lost in our fire, is beside the point). Anyway, this means it is important more than ever to quickly re-stock items for our next sales day at the Durras markets on Easter Saturday.

As you have seen earlier in this newsletter, many EWG members have opened their personal workshop doors to encourage their Woodies colleagues to continue their fine woodworking skills. If you could contribute to rebuild our sales stocks before Easter, that will go a long way to kicking off our sales year in the best way possible. Unfortunately our source of off-cut pine is no longer available, as the stair manufacturer in Batemans Bay was also lost to the fires. Please contact one of the EWG Executive team if you need advice on obtaining materials for sale stock use.

And of course don't forget the annual Exhibition and Sales Days at Tilba on the long weekend in June. Sales items and entries in the Exhibition will be essential, so please start thinking about what you can contribute to this event.



Woodies committee members hard at work at the monthly meeting on Saturday

Lastly, on behalf of all members, thanks go to our Committee, headed by Helmut, for working so tirelessly and quickly since the fire to lodge insurance claims, field offers of assistance and make contact with the appropriate people to rebuild our workshop and source equipment and machinery as quickly as possible. We are very lucky to have such competent people at our helm to direct all the activities which will be required over the coming months.

### *Dates for Your Diary*

**Next Monthly Meeting — Sat 7th March,  
Sth Durras**

#### **Proposed Sales Days 2020 :**

11th April - Easter Saturday	South Durras
8th June - Long weekend	Tilba
Remainder TBA	

**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)

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