

Eurobodalla Woodcraft Guild Inc

MEMBERS NEWSLETTER

July 2017

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Winter has finally arrived in Mogo and the workshop has been a little quieter as a result. The new fire drums are proving very popular and have been getting a good workout. Members have been adjusting to the new workshop layout while the last remaining items have mostly been assigned new homes.

Paul and Ray have been very busy heading the team constructing new storage racks for our timber as well as finding some project storage areas. The outside area has also been tidied following the removal of the unsuitable timber discarded during the building work.

Malcolm and his slabbing team got straight to work after Tilba and have made good inroads into the pine and Norfolk pine logs. They have unfortunately had to call a halt to their endeavours due to the GRC tractor being fitted with a new bucket and currently unavailable to relocate the logs for milling.

Mark and Val have produced a list of stock items required to replenish our stock holdings following the good sales events in the last few months. Members are encouraged to take on the task of making complete articles, thus gaining experience in all aspects of the process, rather than just cutting or just sanding pieces for others to assemble.

The committee has reluctantly accepted the resignation of Bob Kolderie as General Secretary, Grants Officer and Tilba committee representative. Bob has been a dedicated, hard working and generous member of the guild for a number of years and will be greatly missed. Peter Brotherton has volunteered to fulfil the secretarial duties until the AGM in September and other committee members are able to oversee the grants position until then. Any members who would like to be more involved in the guild's operation are encouraged to consider volunteering for any of these positions and can find out more of what is involved by asking any committee member.

After a few visits to the workshop, Bruce Schaefer has returned to Canberra for another series of treatment and we hope that will be successful so we can welcome him back again shortly.

The sub-committee for the 30th anniversary luncheon are now putting the final preparations in place for the 26th July celebrations. Because external caterers are involved in this event it is essential that you advise them if you will be attending and if you will be accompanied by a partner. Transport will be available between the workshop and the tavern for those with unsteady legs and the fires will be burning in the tavern to keep you warm.

See you at the tavern

Pete McDowell

Dates for Your Diary

Wed 26th July 30th Anniversary Dinner Mogo

Sat 5th August 2017 Monthly Meeting Mogo

Wed 6th September 2017 Committee Meeting

Workshop Days Each Mon & Wed Mogo

Workshop Toy Days 1st & 3rd Wed Mogo

Workshop Demonstrations 2nd & 4th Wed Mogo

Proposed Sales Days 2017:

Sat 30th September 2017 Village Centre

Mid October 2017 Historical Society

4th November 2017 Hospital Handmade Markets

Sat 25th November 2017 Village Centre

*NOTE: Members seeking further information contact
Secretary Peter Brotherton 0244725021*

Edited by Malcolm McDonald

& Christine Birks

Club Website

www.eurobodallawoodies.org.au

Email: ewg.mogo@yahoo.com

“OFFCUTS”

Or..bits that are happening in the Workshop

Machine Demonstrations:

The workshop machine demonstration program 2017 is under way with demonstrations happening on the 2nd & 4th Workshop Wednesday of each month.

If any member feels they need personal instruction on the operation of a particular machine for their own benefit and safety then you should approach the club’s OH&S Officer JJ McGrath who will arrange the appropriate training and instruction for you.

Sales Stock:

The 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month are still designated for making toy projects for the club sales days.

Borrowing Tools:

Club members are able to borrow hand tools to take home and use in their own workshops to help finish that special project. Borrowed Tools must be approved by a committee member and signed out on the day taken and signed in upon return. Tools can only be borrowed for a week maximum and must be returned on the next workshop Wednesday for normal club use. They can be borrowed again if needed.

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.

Clear Bench Policy:

Paul is trying to establish areas to store work in progress, but the work benches should be kept clear. Members are asked to use the designated storage areas for work in progress. Any member occupying a space under work benches will be asked to reduce what timber they have stored leading completely to all their stored timber being removed.

Personal projects and their components should be taken home at the end of the day and not left on the workshop benches. If a member has a project that needs to be stored in the workshop then seek permission from a committee member and appropriate storage space will be allocated for a short period of time provided the work is identified with the owner’s/ project name and contact number.

Slabbing:

Slabbing will continue when possible on Wednesdays and members interested in helping out with the slabbing of timber at Mogo are asked to contact Malcolm McDonald.

New Harvey Lathe:

Thanks to the Batemans Bay Soldiers Club for a grant of \$4,200 the Guild is now in a position to purchase a new Harvey Lathe plus some accessories. President Pete McDowell has organised the order and we are awaiting delivery.

Projects on the Drawing Board:

Wine Glass Boxes. Christine Birks is team leader for this project to supply 22 Wine Glass Boxes for her car club.

Slab Sign-In table for the Mogo Aboriginal Pre-school. David Keating is team leader for this project which is still in the design stage, although some materials have been put aside for the work.

Possum Boxes for WIRES. This project was started with Helmut Delrieux as team leader but unfortunately his overseas trip cut the project short so Val Byrne and Les Low have jumped in and are nearing completion of the remaining order.

Book Exchange Library. Mark Barraclough is team leader and is awaiting reply from the Durras Community Association for acceptance of quote so he can begin.

Catalina Ladies Golf Cabinet. A revised specification and costing on the project has been finalised and team leader Pete McDowell is ready to commence and will be needing assistance from members.

Clothes Drying Stand. The club has received a request for a timber clothes drying rack from a lady at Dalmeny. Malcolm McDonald is team leader and work is proceeding on the project.

The GRC has recently asked if the club could make two mobile bases for a fibreglass Emu and Kangaroo they have acquired. Volunteers are required for this project.

Bob Kolderie is moving on. Bob and Val are selling up, moving and thrown into the mix is an overseas trip for the two of them. Bob took on the role of



General Secretary back in early 2016 and what an impact he has made to the club! He has organised forest tours, social functions and trade demonstrations as well as assisted with the Tilba woodcraft exhibition and also completed his general secretarial duties with flair.

Everything Bob tackled was at 110% and the Guild could only benefit from his wealth of experience. We wish both Bob and Val every success in the next chapter of their lives.

Eurobodalla Woodcraft Guild Inc

30th Anniversary Lunch

26th July 2017

Mogo Workshop & GRC Tavern

Preparations are being made for the guild's 30th anniversary lunch on 26 July. Following is a broad outline of arrangements so far:

Meet at the workshop at about 11.30 am for a 12 noon start.

It will be held in the Diggers Rest Tavern from 12 noon to about 3.00 to 3.30 pm.

Transport will be available for those who need it between workshop and the tavern.

Serving of food will be arranged by EWG Organising Committee.

EWG will provide various hot roast meats, Anniversary cake, wine, soft drinks, tea and coffee.

Members will be asked to provide salads, desserts etc.

EWG will need to clean up Tavern & exit before 4.00 pm.

The Guild will meet the cost of providing the hot meats.

If you haven't indicated your intention to attend, please do so this week.

Canberra Woodshow

This event is scheduled for Friday, Saturday and Sunday, 27, 28 & 29 October. The venue has been changed to the Canberra Racing Club, which is near the old EPIC venue.

Ladies Turning Competition .

By way of encouragement, Len Newman is sponsoring a ladies turning competition to turn a bud vase from a supplied blank (5 available). Stock must be held on an internal dovetail foot. Independent judging will be based on design, finish and degree of difficulty, with a first and second prize awarded. Len has advised that due to a good response all contestants will receive a reward for their efforts.

Refresher Turning:

John Tanner is organising a new SIG course on refresher turning for those who feel in need of some updating. It will last for 12 days within a month. He already has some takers so if you are interested contact John.

Box-making competition:

John Clement is proposing a competition among our members to make a simple maple box from a single plank of maple from the donated stack. The box size and shape is your choice, it must only be made from the plank of pacific maple and is to be finished for judging at our end of year Christmas Lunch.



ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FEES ARE DUE.

The annual membership fee of \$45.00 is now due. It was officially due by 30 June 2017, however, treasurer Bob Cripps is extending the deadline to 31 July 2017 before your membership will lapse.

July Show & Tell



Blue & White Pen. Linda Walker turned this pen from a blue & white poly-resin blank. Linda experienced a number of problems in turning the poly-resin blanks compared to wooden pen blanks but with perseverance and a little help Linda achieved her goal. The pen is for a friend who is a fanatical Bulldogs supporter. Linda finished the pen using 1000 to 1500 wet & dry paper and a final coat of Shellawax. Great pen Linda and dare I say "Go the Bulldogs".

Christine Birks Savoury Dip Bowl at right was turned from Pine and finished with white lime wash. The was her first bowl turning after the SIG lathe course, a good effort indeed.



2017 seems to be the year of marine ply art for Nick Hopkins. The piece at left is a platter scored with parallel V shaped cuts made before turning on his lathe. Whilst turning, as the platter depth increased, the score marks got shallower and finally disappeared altogether in the middle and on the perimeter. The marine plywood layers reveal themselves beautifully as always. It is finished with a mixture of Danish Oil/polyurethane/turps.



This platter was donated last week to the local Refugee Action Collective who are running an on line auction to raise funds for the folks stranded on Manus Island and Nauru. If any Woodies members have items they would like to donate to the cause just email Nick with a photo if possible and he will pass on your details to the group. Thanks, Nick Hopkins

The Bandsaw Box was crafted by Pete McDowell from Tasmanian Myrtle. Pete admits it was a very fiddly project to undertake, requiring a lot of planning and bandsaw cutting and finally sanding. Pete finished the bandsaw box with various coats of Danish Oil.

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MEMBERS CORNER

This month President Pete McDowell wanted to share with us his involvement and passion for wood.

A Woody Life

As a toddler I recall going off to work with my father who, as a carpenter, had his own building business. In those days there were no electric jugs on the site and it was my 'job' to collect off-cuts of timber for the fire that would boil the billy at smoko and lunch time. There was always sufficient time to shadow dad about too and ask all those "What are you doing now dad?" and "Why are you doing that dad?" type of questions. Hence my timber and woodworking education began quite early.

When I was about six years old dad built us a "weekender" on the Mornington Peninsula and later acquired a modest bond wood boat. My first woodworking project was thus born as I shaped a piece of 100x50 timber into the shape of a boat, complete with a small cockpit chiselled out of the solid block, which was then towed around on a string with similar craft owned by my mates. Of course the boat had to be painted just like dad's so the annual rub down and re-paint became a fixed event on the calendar.

Those idyllic pre-teen years came to an end when dad became a dairy farmer in the Latrobe Valley. The property was pretty run down and a whole new association with wood loomed large. There were hay sheds and machinery sheds to build, yards to upgrade or rebuild, calf pens, fences, etc., then there was firewood for the wood stove and open fire. Oh how nice it would be to have some of those lovely red box pieces now, the same ones that split so easily for firewood or fence posts. During this time I well remember proudly bringing home a writing desk project completed in 4th form woodwork only to be severely chastised for fitting the ply top, specially selected by my father and uncle, upside down. A lesson learnt!

Farm life for me came to an end after qualifying as a civil engineer and my first job was as a structural designer at Irwin Johnston and Partners, who were then supervising construction of the tallest building in Melbourne, the now dwarfed BHP building. The team I was assigned to were a little more down to earth, and our major client was AV Jennings. We were responsible for all of AVJ's structural design throughout Australia. In those days there were no roof trusses in their specifications and all roof construction was pitched rafters, under purlins, etc., and 95% of the material was timber and so began another aspect of my timber experiences. The angles and complex load sharing

involved in timber house framing make it a very specialised field and we were loudly applauded by our clients when we obtained approval for the first 75mm timber framed homes to be built in Australia in advance of the adoption of the new codes permitting such construction. Ten years and two other employers further on I became disenchanted with engineering and life inside an office, so with the knowledge gained from those early days and also extending two houses, with a little help from dad, I formed a partnership with one of the draftsmen and we became licensed builders.

So began twenty five years of hands on timber work that survived a move to Bermagui where I retired in 2004. Downsizing to an apartment and not foreseeing any need of woodworking equipment, all but the most basic tools were sold off, as we set about establishing a new stage of life in Batehaven. Six years further on, after the initial euphoria of much travel and free time had begun to wane, I conceded to the many requests from my friend Bob Kolderie to visit The Woodies who had not long since moved to the Mogo workshop. This visit led to a new adventure in fine woodworking under the tutelage of such skilled members as Art Keeler, Don Lee, Len Newman and so many others who offer valuable tips and assistance. Art showed me how to make boxes, as he did every new member at the time, he taught me patience and persistence, how to apply basic skills to the task at hand, how to match the box timbers and how to use equipment with far greater accuracy than I had ever done before. Don instructed me in my initial turning development, beyond that of pen making, and introduced me to the skew chisel, a much favoured tool these days. Soon after Len began looking over my shoulder and suggesting little tips and methodologies to improve my work and those tips evolved to weekly challenges to complete a small project, each involving a new or different technique.

It inspires me to see the excellent and varied work that all members produce at The Woodies and I hope to spend many more years learning new skills and sharing knowledge with all members as part of a mutual learning process.

Pete McDowell

