

Eurobodalla Woodcraft Guild Inc

MEMBERS NEWSLETTER

July 2018

THE PRECEDENT'S REPORT

No, that's not bad spelling, this is a precedent as we have no President or Vice President this month so I was asked to have a go.

The last few weeks when I have opened up the workshop the temperature had dropped to as low as 1 degree C. So the fire was lit and the urn turned on. By then a few other hardy woodies turned up to move the machinery around and sort out the chairs.

We have still enjoyed reasonable attendance and a few long running projects have been completed.

Notably among these was the completion of the Apothecaries' cabinet for the GRC. This project was done by Ann and Eric and took some time as the original shelving and the building they were in were not very square or plumb. Ann did all of the staining, varnishing and glazing. Well done.

A small corner table commissioned for a disabled person was started by Eric assisted by our new members Kathie and Martin. This was finished by Barry Corrigan and handed over to the client.

Don appears to have the old Hafco lathe on the mend by reworking the main pulley shaft with the variable speed pulleys and Helmut worked some magic in the electrical department. Let's hope it all turns out. (joke)

Great news! Sharon advised me today that she is calling about a month long halt to the small toy making program. It would appear that our new system of many members contributing to the making of toys in small batches has been very successful. So well done everyone.

We ALL still need to be aware of the need to clean up after you finish with a machine. The deal is that you sweep or vacuum up your dust and return the machine to a normal position. In the case of the table saw, the blade should be returned to the vertical position and the riving knife and cover put back for the next operator if it has been removed. Safety first.

It has been observed that our extensive use of pine and other resinous timber are leaving a build up on the guide rollers and driving wheels on the band saws. Please advise the duty supervisor or a committee member if you feel the machine could do with a clean.

Another piece of news is that Helmut is a proud grandfather again.

I know, I know I forgot to ask the next three most important questions about Helmut's grandchild.

Regards Eric Simes
Secretary

Dates for Your Diary

Workshop Days Each Mon & Wed	Mogo
Workshop Toy Days 1st & 3rd Wed	Mogo
Workshop Demonstrations 2nd & 4th Wed	Mogo
EWG Monthly Meeting .. 4th August	Mogo

Proposed Sales Days 2018:

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) 4471 5086***

SHOW & TELL

Items at the July Monthly Meeting - a platter by Barry Fenning using spotted gum with red gum inserts - note the various colours of the gum. And below, a turned bowl again by Barry using what he thinks is cedar.



Another very artistic piece by Nick Hopkins. He called his 2.5D Sun because it is neither 2D nor 3D.

He took an old pine plywood offcut and distorted it with cables and turnbuckles before throwing it in the dam for a day. No mercy!

Once he removed it from the water and tightened the turnbuckles it was left to completely dry.

Then he sketched the shape of the sun and proceeded to remove material layer by layer with an Arbortech mini Turbo plane. This brought the sun into relief rather than the opposite strategy of removing material in the shape of the sun which would have created a receding sun. The Arbortech random contour sander smoothed out the rough bits. It is finished with the polyurethane/Danish oil/turps combo.

An old picture frame lying around was too big to neatly fit the plywood. So he suspended the plywood rectangle evenly with 4 screws in the centre of the frame. Wow - so creative and I believe Nick was happy with the overall effect.



Don't forget if you have any items you would like to share with your fellow Woodies, and can't get along to the monthly meeting, just send the info with photos to either Malcolm or myself, and we will be happy to include in Show and Tell.

Members Corner

COBWEBS

I thought that I would give you an insight to a real Woodies problem. It's not about splinters or dust up your nose or glue in your hair, it's about a real compulsive disorder that I have found affects quite a few of my friends.

It's about the compulsion to keep building wooden boats. There is no money in it, it is very time consuming, can be quite messy but is absolutely enormous fun on a grand scale. You have to get your head arcane language and scaled drawings with plan and side views drawn on top of one another. Then a large part of the timber used is only for the initial temporary setup and is thrown away at the projects end, unless you are clever enough to use it on the next project. Normally we build boats upside down and then turn them over when half finished, pull out the temporary framing and start to fill it in again with stuff we want, the fit out. There is not a right angle in a boat and just about every piece has to be cut with a bevel in two directions and it is likely to be curved and or twisted or both as well.

That's why it is so challenging and so much fun.

The problem is the compulsive side of things, you just have to keep at it. I now think that it is a recognised disorder called Compulsive Building of Wood & Epoxy Boats. Called COBWEBS for short.

To date I have built 12 boats, with the last one finished 5 years ago. I thought that I was cured of the "cobweb" effect though I think that I have had them in my head for a very long time. It's a bit like the Quit cigarette program in that the longer you abstain the better chance you have of kicking the habit.

Well I reasoned that 5 years should be enough but over the last festive season things started to go wrong again. I found in my workshop some lofted boat plans that I had prepared some 18 months ago when I had a quite couple of days. Lofting means drawing the plans full size, in this case, they are 4 .0 metres long.

So, guess what has happened, I've started building again. You know if you not vigilant and don't keep a clean house or clear head then the Cobwebs gather.

Before I rant on about my favourite pastime and by now I suspect that you all agree that I'm beyond help, look around you at other Woodies. They are consumed by a number of afflictions such as, B.O. or box obsession, CBS or cutting board syndrome, OTT or obsessive top turning and other similar problems. So please accept that we all have issues and try to understand why I am passionate about my Cobwebs.

I had several reasons for giving in to the cobwebs again and building this particular design.

- I have limited space, hence a small boat is all that I can fit in the shed.
- All of the timber required I have already left over from other projects
- It presented a challenge in setting out and "fairing" the mould frames and ribs
- I like to do something different and more difficult each project
- It will only require a small amount of power to achieve "hull speed"

I found the plans in a book of designs by Paul Gartside, A Pom living in America. He is a good designer and I have built one of his designs in 2002.

As I did back then I cannot help but vary the design as drawn. Sometimes I change the method of construction to suit the materials available or in this case I have varied the “sheer line” which I thought was excessive and I have given it a straighter stem. The hull construction I will vary to suit the materials available and change the fitout as required by the motor installation. I may also opt for a stern hung rudder instead of the one shown.

To date, I have built the strong back, a frame on which everything else is constructed. It consists of two x 200 deep “Hy-joist”, plywood floor joists of 4.0metre long and spaced 1200mm apart with four spreaders, the whole being kept square with hoop iron diagonal braces. All of these pieces have been used before to build about 4 other boats. On top of this are cross spalls to hold the “Harpin”.

The Harpin is a flat shelf or sheer clamp in the shape of the plan of the hull made from 2 layers of 12mm old Oregon painters planks and is sprung (bent) over the cross spalls to set the sheer line and on which all temporary mould frames and permanent stem, horn timber, keelson and deadwood are placed. The harpin is also notched at about 110mm centres to take the ribs which are also notched into the keel. See photo1.

If you wish I will explain all of the terminology at a later date or you can try Mr. Google.

After the 7 temporary mould frames are erected plumb and square to the centreline and base the stem and horn timbers were milled, steam bent, glued up and fitted to the moulds. The keelson was fitted followed by the ribbands (6 per side and temporary) and the bilge stringer (permanent). The next step was to mill, steam and fit 30 ribs per side. The middle 17 ribs actually are full length from one g’wale to the other and screw fixed to the inside of the keelson tying both sides of the hull together.

The next step was to “fair” all of the ribs, harpin, keelson, stem and horn timber so that the planks will sit flat and even across all surfaces prior to gluing.

However, before the hull is sealed a most important step was to install the stern tube for the propeller shaft. It had to be at the correct vertical angle so that the motor would fit and be on the centreline. Once this was carried out the rest of the deadwood could be installed and the first layer of the planking fitted. The plans call for 3 layers of 4mm thick planks, the first two diagonally and the last longitudinally. I have opted for one diagonal and one thicker longitudinal layer resulting in the same overall thickness.

Prior to fitting any planks I have spent over 300hours to date.

Stay tuned for next episode.

Eric Simes



Members Corner Cont'd ...



Attached are a couple of shots of a flower I turned and sculpted out of Silky Oak that was destined for the burn pile. Instead of rejecting it I accentuated the cracks in the “bud” as petals about to unfold and then laid out a dozen older petals to set the scene. In the heart is a “ seed “ of red cedar. Sculpting of the petals was done with an ArborTech industrial carving wheel attached to an angle grinder, and fine sanded with an ArborTech random contour sander good for getting into those crevices. All finished with tung oil.

Nick Hopkins

TRAVEL REPORT, this time from Peter President

Greetings from Nambung NP, home of the Pinnacles, close to Cervantes WA.

It is a little over a month since we set out from Batemans Bay, visiting family in Bermagui, Churchill and Morwell in the Latrobe Valley before starting our westward journey. From Morwell we travelled through Noojee and the forests of West Gippsland. Then north to Yea, Seymour, Bendigo, St Arnaud, Horsham and on to SA at Naracoorte.

Having lived in Victoria in our earlier lives, most of this journey was over familiar ground and with an approaching severe cold front, we pressed on and after travelling the Barrossa and Clare valleys, finally reached Ceduna on Sunday. That was a reality check to make sure we knew we were getting to the outback with only the road house and the supermarket open.

And so began the journey across the Nullarbor which we found very interesting. The road follows the lower edge of the Nullarbor so the vegetation varies from the 'treeless plain' to substantial stands of trees and scrub depending largely on the soil type of the particular area. There is an outstanding facility at the Head of the Bight for whale watching where they say they can have up to 400 whales during the peak calving season - We were a bit early. Other wildlife was also very sparse across the SA section of the journey and there was a notable absence of road kill until we left the lower plain at Madura in WA and began to notice more road train victims.

After completing the long crossing at Norseman we headed north to Kalgoorlie and Coolgardie before going west to Hyden and Wave Rock, then south east back to Esperance. That journey is through the eastern wheat belt where they have been desperately waiting the autumn rains. Much of the land had been dry sown but the unfortunate farmers didn't get the 50mm of rain that fell in Perth, only the 70K winds that raised huge dust clouds on our way to Esperance so that we couldn't see the length of the jetty on our arrival. Fortunately the dust cleared after lunch and we were able to see some of their beautiful beaches. We found all the beaches quite beautiful all the way back to Albany and were fortunate to have a huge pod of dolphins, breaching humpbacks and a seal join us while walking remote Normans beach near Albany.

We arrived in Albany a few days after the horrific fires, but travelling from Albany to Denmark, Mt Barker and through the Stirling Ranges we only observed one small burnt out area on the outskirts of Mt Barker. Travelling north west through the central wheat belt we noted huge areas of salt lakes which are apparently increasing dramatically through the area due to irrigation and other factors.

After restocking at the last Aldi store we will see for a couple of months, we have now arrived on the west coast and will spend the coming month sightseeing our way to Broome.

More travel news next month. Regards, Peter



CLUB PROJECTS

DINING TABLE RESTORATION

The Club recently had a request from a lady in Malua Bay to have her Dining Table Restored. I accepted the job to have a look at what was involved. The photos show the condition of the table top in various areas. Well, first inspection revealed that the table is VERY Large and HEAVY. At about 2.4m long, 70cm – 80cm wide and 40-50mm thick solid Redgum it wasn't going anywhere and it was obvious that the job would have to be done in-situ. It had originally been finished in beeswax which requires periodic re-waxing. It had been previously (badly) restored (note the black marks from previous work) and was a maze of cracks and splits you could put a Skewer into. These had worsened over years of use without any care such as waxing. The job was assessed as do-able, but how. I costed full restoration by a club member (probably me) would cost at least \$1500 at \$30 per hour. An alternative put to the owner was that she do all the hard work of filling the cracks with commercial coloured putty and matching filler made on site from Cyanoacrylate Adhesive



(Hot Stuff) and matching wood dust, fairing off uneven areas on the table using Cabinet Scrapers and Abrasive Paper, then colour matching bare timber areas exposed by this process with colour matched Spirit Stain. This would be a learning exercise for the owner and my time would be charged at an Hourly Rate for the EWG with an upper limit of \$300. This Plan was accepted by the owner and approved by the Club

Thus started the collaboration and learning exercise. It has proceeded slowly but well, with many problems solved. The owner has learned well and worked diligently. I am sure she is surprised by the amount of

fiddley work involved and the time involved.. We will achieve a satisfactory restoration, but as with all such jobs, the aim is something short of perfection. We all know it is easier to build a new wheelbarrow than restore an old one!!! 90% will be a good outcome. The alternative would have been to machine back (sand) the whole surface to original wood, re stain and re polish and then it would move again because of the way it is constructed.

I think that this is a good approach to a job like this because the owner learns something about restoration and has some ownership in the outcome.

I will report on the finished job and ask the owner for her comments.

Cheers, John Tanner

CLUB PROJECTS CONT'D

Durras Street Library

We received a note from the Durras Association, following the completion of the Book Swap Cupboard, thanking us for our contribution.

"Thanks to all who helped with this project. The street library movement is becoming very popular and little cupboards like this are popping up in communities in the most surprising places. They are usually not very big and are filled with books that people have finished reading and have decided to donate to anyone in the community who likes to read. The borrowed book and borrower is not recorded and many people take a book and leave a book. The past time of reading a book is not dead!"

Mark Barraclough was the project manager of this book cupboard. The Durras community finished it off with it's colourful artwork! It took our committee a while getting there with help from the locals in painting and as you can see, they have done a fantastic job. The new Durras Book Swap is now installed outside Durras Hall. Take a book. Leave a book.

Well done Mark and team on your workshop contribution in making this project a success.

**DON'T FORGET — EWG
MEMBERSHIPS ARE NOW
OVERDUE.**



Contributions of newsletter articles are always welcome. Please feel free to send to either Malcolm or myself by email. Regards,

Chris Birks,
Assistant Editor