

Eurobodalla Woodcraft Guild Inc

MEMBERS NEWSLETTER

July 2019

President's Report

Welcome to all new and members of the Guild and a happy return to the veterans, I hope you are all well and enjoy the mild weather with some reminders of winter included.

Two weeks ago on a Monday somebody pointed out to me that we had more female members present than males, which would be the first ever. We certainly have not reached equality on membership but certainly on workmanship and quality.

Over the last month we encountered some problems with machinery and consumables like bandsaw plates, conveyor belts and sandpaper for the drum sanders which have been attended to and solved. The suppliers for sandpaper roles for the drum sanders have reduced to one single supplier which is a concern due to the rising cost of the material. Previous suppliers charge now by the metre or sell one pre cut length for a particular machine for excessive prices. We are currently purchasing sandpaper from the 'Sandpaperman' in 15 or 25 meter lengths 75 & 100mm wide, if anybody could find another supplier this would be fantastic?

Due to the outstanding work of Eric and his group of volunteers on the children's corner for Anglicare, we are now building two park benches for them. The cutting and sizing of materials is well on the way and filling up the workshop. The same to be said from the nesting boxes which fill up our store room. Please be careful when walking through the workshop. The nesting boxes will disappear on the 9th of August for a workshop (assembly of the boxes) in the Botanical Gardens. The workshop is on Friday and we would need some more helpers to assist the participants in assembling the boxes.

Last year John Clement proposed a challenge to members to build a jewellery box out of 1 meter Maple doorframe timber to be presented and judged at our Christmas Party. We had a great response and it was fun to see the different designs that constituted a jewellery box. As a square headed engineer with little imagination I call on everybody to think of a challenge everybody would enjoy. If you have a suggestion please forward a three dimensional drawing and plan for your idea and a comprehensive description to discuss at our next meeting I know what you just thought, but I was kidding, any suggestions in any form and shape would be welcome.

Thinking of something slightly challenging and over the top is the community grant voting system. To describe the procedure for computer challenged people would be an impossibility, for computer literate people and for gurus, the 10 minute exercise is a joke. In short you have a voting system designed if you do not want anybody to vote. I gave my grandson Nick Stone's instructions and asked him for a comment, all I got was a strange searching look which was hard to describe and "what is the problem", so do not feel bad. If you have the inclination and time go to the "Services NSW" office in Batemans Bay the staff is friendly and willing to help.

Next Month is our AGM and if anybody has the urge and inclination to do some committee work in any shape or form they would be welcome.

Stay well and see you soon



Club Projects

Several members of the woodies modified twelve of the wooden dining tables in the GRC Tavern. The process involved reducing the overall height of the tables by 100mm and removing the table rail which hindered the knees of people when seated.

The dynamic woodies table team comprised Michael Barkley, Mark Nisbet, Barry Fenning and Malcolm McDonald with special assistance from David Smith.

The work was performed by torchlight because the old boys eyesight was not good. The photo below tells all.



As Helmut said in his introduction, the Nesting boxes for the Botanical Gardens have almost taken over the workshop, but will be out of there soon. Helmut has been measuring and cutting for some months now, and last week it was time to get some help from Sharyn and Paul to drill the holes so the participants can just screw the boxes together.

This has been a really big time consuming job, and the dollars we receive for the job will be well earned. If anyone can volunteer their time at The Botanical Gardens workshop on Friday 9th August, please see Helmut.



David Keating is still moving along with the Council project of providing playing equipment in the Mogo reserve. Council would like the project completed by year end, and so have purchased materials and several tools for the project. It is proposed to use some of the timber from the Runnyford bridge demolition job which will be selected by Council and some Club members, then delivered to our workshop. This is a large project to take on board, and it will be interesting to see David's inventiveness and creativity to design the equipment in keeping with the timbers made available to him. We look forward over the coming months to

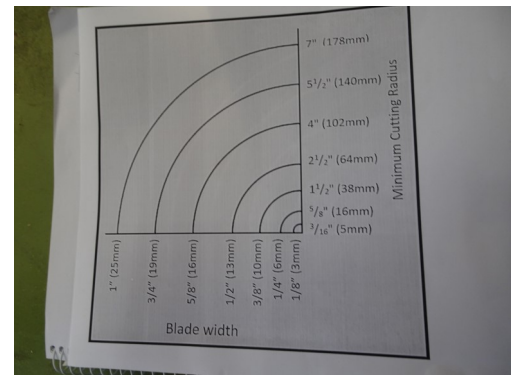
Machinery Demonstrations

During July Peter Brotherton completed demonstrations on the correct use of both bandsaws and belt and drum sanders. He emphasised, once again, the need to be vigilant with cleaning the sanding belts, particularly when using soft timbers like pine, etc. If you have any excess glue on your material, this must be cleaned with an old chisel before using the sanders. Also, some timbers will mark the sanding belts quicker than others. All these factors, if not cleaned every one or two passes, will result in damage to the sanding belts, and damage to your material.

When using the bandsaws, ensure you have removed the small pieces that drop into the bottom bearing support mechanism. These can jam in the bottom blade support, thus moving the blade out of the guides.

None of this is rocket science, and your cooperation will save the Club a lot of money in replacement sanding belts and blades, let alone the time it takes to continually maintain this equipment for our use.

Speaking of the bandsaws, Rick Stanford has laminated a copy of the charts detailing the ratio of blade width / maximum cutting radius applicable to all our various bandsaws. Please refer to these guides on all bandsaws when deciding which bandsaw is the correct one for your particular job. This will also assist in unnecessary breakages and unnecessary expense to replace.



Dates for Your Diary

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

Proposed Sales Days 2019:

5 October (long weekend) Sales Day BB Village
9 November Hospital Handmade
Market, BB RSL
30 November Sales Day BB Village

NOTE: Members seeking further information
contact **Secretary Eric Simes (02) 4471 5086**

Lichtenberg or Fractal Burning – to burn or not to burn.....

On one of my travelling trips earlier this year Mrs M and I came across a very interesting decorative cheese board in a gift shop. The cheeseboard had branching patterns resembling a tree like root system burnt into the surface. We were so taken by the beauty of the board that we purchased it as a souvenir of our trip and Mrs M said to me, “you know, you’re a clever boy, I’m sure you could create something like this into the cutting boards you make for the woodies”. Well, I’ve dabbled in pyrography with some limited success but this would be a new adventure and a new level of burning. I bought the cheeseboard along to show and tell this month as an example of the creative process but with the following reservations.



While researching the “Fractal Burning” process through various books and magazines my euphoria was short-lived as I discovered this process opened a Pandora’s Box of hidden dangers. The process was first discovered by Professor Georg Lichtenberg in 1777 while experimenting with static electricity. He believed that the figures created showed the motion of the electric field.



Today in woodworking, Lichtenburg burning is a way of using high voltage electricity coupled with an electrolyte of sorts to burn lightning style patterns in wood using high tension leads and electrodes. It is referred to as Fractal Burning as the patterns created resemble a group of never-ending geometric patterns called fractals, hence the technique is known as fractal burning.

Lichtenberg or fractal burning is very popular at present and is used as decorative additions to wood working projects. It is a very specialized process used by

some woodworkers but it hides the grave dangers of using high voltage electricity which has been linked to deaths by electrocution while performing fractal burning.



So, this little duck has decided to admire the woodwork created by others who use the process but not venture down the path of performing fractal burning myself.

Malcolm McDonald

DISCLAIMER : The process in this very interesting article by Malcolm McDonald should not be attempted by any EWG member - especially in our workshop!

REMINDER :

Our Club has submitted an application for a grant to enable us to purchase a new slabber, which will take a lot of heavy workload out of this process. There are many clubs and organisations in the Eurobodalla Shire vying for these grant funds, so it is important that every member takes the time to vote. As Helmut has mentioned, this is not as straight forward as it should be, but your fellow club members can help you walk through the process. Please refer to Eric Simes’ email on the subject, or speak to a member of the Club executive.

SHOW & TELL



Sharyn Morrison took a well deserved break from toy making to make this lovely bowl from a piece of burl found in the wood store. A pretty fine effort given she has had a sizeable break from turning.

To the right is an assortment of platters by Mike Barkley. This photo doesn't do each board justice as Mike used a variety of timber inserts to great effect.



Below is a box made by Helmut from 100 year old oregon, rescued from an old house being rebuilt in Durras. Helmut filled a knot on the top r/hand side with aluminium fillings set in apoxy. It gives a 3 dimensional effect.



Sue Page decided to experiment with the child's jigsaw puzzle by cutting shapes from a pine disc and painting humpty dumpty on the wall with great effect

Rick Stanford made this interesting money box from pine in the shape of a dragon for his grandson. He also made some for the Club sales days, so thanks Rick.



Ann Salmon has also returned the lathe after having had a break for a while and turned this bowl from pine. She must have been inspired because after that, she also turned this lovely jewelry box from Cypress Pine (Callitris). The jewelry

box lid has an insert from a bottle Brush Tree branch (Callistemon). Ann finished her piece with various levels of sanding followed with EEE wax and Shellawax.



Ann also made this pen assembly press with a turned handle in mahogany and ironbark, using spotted gum for the base. The hardware was sourced from a pen supplier and the design was taken from the internet.





Trevor Fletcher is responsible for these easels for use at our sales days, and also for sale.

Mark Nesbit made these swivel top ring-boxes in scrap timber from the woodpile for the Club sales days. He used toy axles as the pivot to swing the lids.



Nick Stone is responsible for this interesting marine barometer using spotted gum burl and finished with marine varnish .

Mark Nesbit made this interesting Tangram puzzle cut from pine into various shapes, then set within an open box using ply. This is just one puzzle that can be made using shapes as detailed on the right. If popular at our sales days, it could be worth having a crack at some of the other shapes.



John Tanner crafted this amazing model of a locomotive with tender modelled on an 1865 American wood burning locomotive. He used a combination of huon pine, jarra, red gum, etc. It took John over 6 months to complete the model, and after making the 12 wheels by hand, he had to remake them. John had originally planned to display it at this year's Tilba

show, but will now enter it in next years show. John is planning on making another one as a Christmas present for one of his grandchildren.

New Members Corner

My name is Jenny Barnes and I live in beautiful Tuross Head. My journey into woodwork was somewhat belated. As a high school student in the mid 1960s woodwork was just not offered to female students having to settle instead for sewing and cooking (!!!!). Over the next 40 years or so I did get the opportunity to work 'on the tools' as it were but I was mostly the goffer 'go for this, get that', so I knew what most of the tools were and how to operate some of the more basic equipment (not always safely I might add). It wasn't until my retirement and some dramatic events in my life that I came to woodworking via a convoluted path including painting and Japanese wood block printing (Mokuhanga - which I still do).



Without the skills and safety aspects I knew I lacked, I thought I had better join a group that could teach me these things. I firstly joined the Moruya Community Shed and must give thanks particular to John and Bob for their help. I realised that while I was setting up my own home workshop there were a number of 'like to have' items that I just couldn't justify buying, so I looked to a club that was very well set up and had the resources including teaching and equipment to take my woodworking to a more advanced level. I found the Eurobodalla Woodies via word of mouth from members of the Moruya Shed. I'm so glad I did. I've only been attending for a couple of weeks now, but the experience has been terrific. I really appreciated the warm welcome I got from everyone. One aspect I particularly like is the focus on safety with ongoing demonstrations on using various pieces of equipment. I've also put my name down for a few courses run by other members.

My woodworking interests are varied but I do realise that my focus will be on making smaller items. To that end I have attended a workshop up in Taree on bandsaw box making and later in the year will be doing workshops on carving (Taree) and Kumiko (Melbourne). Maybe when I get more practice in some of these areas I can offer my experiences and knowledge to other members of the 'Woodies'.



NEXT MEETING NEXT SATURDAY 3RD AUGUST
MOGO WORKSHOP

Around the Workshop

Nick Hopkins recently returned from a lengthy holiday after touring around south western Australia with his wife Heike. Nick said his experience of swimming with whale sharks was unforgettable, but not as exciting as winning The People's Choice Award at the recent Tilba Show. Nick's winning entry was a Dinosaur egg on a stand shown below. Chris Birks, one of the EWG Tilba Show Committee, took the opportunity when he returned to the workshop in July to present his Award to him. You can see his excitement here!

Kerrie Goodrich has also been busy on the lathe over the past few months making a succession of salt and pepper grinders in a variety of shapes and sizes, as Christmas gifts for her family.

She is also making a table, starting with crafting these legs below. We will be keen to see the finished result.



Don't forget, if you have made anything in your home workshop you would like to include in the August edition of Show & Tell, please send by email - christinebirks52@gmail.com - your photo and description of material/s used, so you can share your handywork with your fellow Woodies.

DON'T FORGET MEMBERSHIPS ARE NOW DUE : \$45 per annum, payable direct to Peter Brotherton on workshop days by cash, or direct into the EWG bank account by EFT. Please remember to identify your payment by inserting your last name in the transaction.

Edited by Christine Birks and Malcolm McDonald

Club Website : www.eurobodallawoodies.org.au

Email : ewg.mogo@yahoo.com