

# *Eurobodalla Woodcraft Guild Inc*

## MEMBERS NEWSLETTER

March 2020

### President's Report

I hope you are all well. What has happened in the last four weeks one might ask? I sometimes have the feeling we have drawn the short straw. You can follow the on-goings everyday on radio and TV so there is no point for me to elaborate any further. The only comment I would like to make is, that you adhere to the official advice and I mean official, stay well and see you all at the end of it. On the other hand we are very lucky to live where we are and have our club which is currently in remission but is motoring along in the back ground.

We have not secured another home for ourselves but we have two possibilities being pursued and one looks very promising. Obviously in the current climate things do not progress with lightning speed. We are also participating in a workgroup chaired by the Batemans Bay court house museum that is looking for new premises as well. This group consists of everybody who had a home at the original Gold Rush Colony. The idea or reason for the group is to establish a place with the museum to show past trades & skills, and the land which is in consideration is not bad either. The drawback is that it is a long term project between three to five years which is too long for us. We will continue to participate in the group irrespective of securing our own premises in the meantime. The reason for participating is to be part of a community to have some sort of an outlet or make demonstrations at the centre or move permanently there for a long term future. If this sounds all like a pipedream, it may be, but one can dream.

Now some good news - we received our saw mill as a flat pack in three parcel sizes of 400, 340 and 40Kg respectively. Peter B and I inspected the goods and decided that a normal trailer would not handle the transfer in one load as one parcel was three meters long.

Consequently I engaged Cameron's Hardware to pick up the goods but they could only transport the goods to their yard due to time pressures with their truck. Then Peter M got into the act - I am not sure this was by knowledge or enthusiasm - and everything after that just fell into place. The mill was picked up from Cameron's by trailer and delivered to Eric's place who had very generously offered it for the assembly. The assembly team included Peter M, Peter B, Malcolm, Barry, David, Michael and Eric, including Wendy who supplied lunch. The project should have been straightforward, however the manual supplied did not belong to the saw supplied, and consequently it took endless phone calls to talk to the supplier (which involved driving up the hill to get phone service) to sort the instructions out. After all the calls and trips to the hardware store to buy additional bolts the monster mill took shape and was finally completed in three days. As you can see my name is absent from the assembly team as I wasn't well and I was very concerned not to infect anybody. This information is obviously second hand and sounds dramatised but that is actually how it was. Malcolm took the saw mill home in the anticipation of slabbing some logs in Durras. But typically why he took the mill home was to install a spare tyre, a toolbox for all the parts and so on. Do not feel inadequate that you do not do enough as all these guys are from the committee and are obliged to do it (just kidding). Our sincere thanks go out to the assembly crew for their persistence and perseverance to put the thing together - we are fortunate to have such dedicated members in our club. In the meantime we found a home at a storage facility in Batemans Bay for the mill and all the other donated materials.

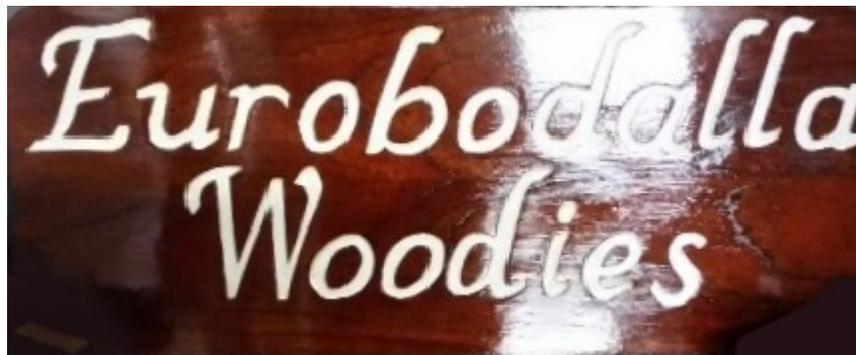


Our thoughts and gratitude also go to Nick Stone who singlehandedly is squeezing every dollar out of the available grants on offer. Our future looks very bright due to Nick's efforts and dedication.

I urge you to stay safe, adhere to the COVID-19

advice, be patient, shape some timber to pass the time, pull out some weeds (the noxious variety), enjoy some vino and help each other. We will get through this.

Helmut



Thanks to Peter McDowell we now have a replacement club plaque. Thanks Pete It is made from recycled red cedar panel from a bar, finished with polyurethane.

## HOME WORKSHOP ACTIVITY



**Eric Simes** has put his spare time to work completing "Terror", a 1:5 scale model of a 6.1 metre sailing boat of the type built in Victorian times. It is rigged as a gaff topsail cutter. The hull is framed in Celery Top Pine, with Huon Pine planking, Queensland White Beech deck with a Brazilian Mahogany cover board and a Silver Ash rub rail at the gunwale. Eric has made all metal components out of brass with many more to come.

**Malcolm McDonald** has been busy making various sized cutting boards for the sales table this year. These are a few which are made from Spotted Gum, River She Oak, Black Butt and Iron Bark. Malcolm finishes the boards by power sanding to 120 grit and applying two coats of u Beaut Polishes – Food Safe Mineral Oil.



# HOME WORKSHOP ACTIVITY cont'd

As well as continuing the toy making with Val, Sharyn has been looking for new ideas for toys and sales items. This penguin design was found in a magazine which she developed into this very cute toy. I can't show you the action it makes when paddling along, but it is hilarious. Thank Sharyn - I'm sure there will be many of these for sale when we get the opportunity.



**Peter McDowell** made these various articles for the sales days. The flip top boxes are red morel, walnut and gidgee finished with kunos



oil, the fishermen's priests are gidgee finished with hard burnishing oil, the wine bottle coasters are blackwood and probably mahogany finished with EEE and shellawax, the rolling pins are silky oak and probably turpentine finished with hard burnishing oil, and the jeeps are a mixture of bits and pieces including pine, rosewood, merbau, and others finished with danish oil.



← From this



← To this

As some of you will know, Rhona, a relatively new member to EWG, started to construct a well cover for her backyard well. Whilst Rhona has her own home workshop, as seen in the background opposite, she needed the assistance of the EWG experts to assist her with the cover. The project was commenced in our Gold Rush workshop with the help of Eric, and thank goodness, it was taken home over the Christmas break. As you can see, the project has now been completed and the cover is in pride of place on the well, and looking fantastic. In Rhona's own words, ... *I have learnt how to use a band saw, circular saw, hand saw, hammer drill, CHISEL, mallet (I know some of you will be surprised that I had to learn how to use a mallet - but there you are), and the value of 'measure twice, cut once'.* Great work Rhona!

↓ To this



**Barry Fenning** has restored the jet lathe dug out from the fire. This made me quite teary seeing the lathe looking so good. I hope Barry got as much pleasure restoring it as the turners will from using it some time in the future. Below are some off the items made from his "virus free" workshop. I am guessing they are sale items. Thanks Barry



**Len Newman** has also been busy making these paper towel holders and a quantity of spinning tops from Radiata Pine, all finished with Eco Oil, and ready for sale.



**Les Bamford** has done it again. Les created a replica of a Low Loader Trailer carrying an Excavator. The prime mover was completed last year. Les used all the offcuts of Radiata Pine he could find and with much patience he crafted the trailer and excavator with moving parts (the hydraulic rams slide in and out, all wheels and tracks rotate, the excavator jib raises and lowers and the trailer tail gate lowers for the excavator to roll off).



Les started the project last year but finished it this year at home (mainly by hand sanding) following the demise of our workshop. Fantastic job Les.



**Jenny Barnes** attended a puppet making workshop at Nethercote before the latest round of 'stay at home' advice and the result of the workshop is shown left. Jenny used a carving hatchet and knife and used green silky oak only . If anyone is interested in doing the workshop she would highly recommend it.



**Bob Shelley** made these items from pine off cuts, finished with AAA and Shellawax polish after tuition from John Tanner. He then went on to make these containers (above), using timber shown in the rough. It just goes to show what's hidden below a rough surface. Bob has enjoyed using a lathe so much he went out and purchased one himself.



**Helmut Delrieux** has made two block planes from Beech (centre), Iron Bark (sides) and Cherry for the handles. The plane blade is high tensile steel from Gordon Blades. Helmut finished the planes with multiple coats of his special 3 in 1 mixture oil blend (only known to Helmut) and then polished with bees wax.

# Further to Helmut's Presidents Report .....



Assembly of our new slabbing machine.

It took a number of members three days to assemble from crates and boxes freighted down from Gosford. With a limited instruction booklet and many chiefs on the job we got there eventually. This was done at Eric's place and thank you to Eric and Wendy for their hospitality. We now look forward to our first slabbing jog and a stockpile of slabbed timber.

..... Malcolm



# Keeping in Touch

Thanks Nick Hopkins for keeping us up-to-date on your efforts to rebuild. Obviously it's a long road you are both travelling. Good to hear also some of your fantastic sculptures were not destroyed and congratulations on your Awards.



News from our very own Reserve Grants Officer and Assistant Orange/Lime Peeler

Don't forget to look at the Blog Nick Stone set up. Anyone can post informal updates, news, ideas, requests for help etc at [ewguild.blogspot.com](http://ewguild.blogspot.com). If you have any difficulty accessing or using the site, just contact Nick who would be happy to step you through the process. Nick also suggested you look at the South Coast Woodcraft Facebook site which might be more familiar to some- most members are from Woodies.

## Home Workshop Offer

As you know the latest advice from the authorities prevents us from gathering in groups greater than 2 people, so this effectively draws to a close our ability to use the workshops of our fellow Woodies mates. Hopefully the easing of restrictions later in the year will enable us to resume spending some productive time in volunteer home workshops again. At that time we will advise which workshops will be available, so until then, keep well.

## Tilba Woodwork Show and Exhibition

Let's face it, week x week it looks progressively doubtful the Show will be able to proceed. However the Tilba Committee are continuing to plan in the hope that by June the current restrictions on group gatherings will ease. However, if not, we are investigating the possibility of holding the event on the long weekend in October. This will be dependent on getting the Tilba hall or a suitable alternative. In the meantime, if you are inclined, keep working on entries for the Exhibition and sales items, whilst you have the extra time on your hands. If we can't hold the event this year, there's always 2021 to submit the winning entry. We will keep you posted. Chris

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## *Dates for Your Diary*

**Monthly Meetings — Suspended until further notice**

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

South Durras Easter Markets	Cancelled
Tilba June Long weekend	Unlikely
July Exhibit at Botanic Gardens, BB	TBA
September River of Art display	tentative
3rd October (long weekend) - Village Centre sales	
14th November (TBC) - Hospital Handmade Markets, BB	
28th November - Village Centre sales	

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

