

# *Eurobodalla Woodcraft Guild Inc*

## MEMBERS NEWSLETTER

October 2018

### President's Report

I always question myself if the time is going too fast or I am working too slow or I am too fastidious? Probably all three propositions are correct and apply to everybody.

With this in mind we do not have too long to go to complete Christmas presents for our families. We also have next month's two sales days before Christmas which are normally the best of the year. Please lend your support for the sales days with some donations of goods or time on the day.

The Christmas breakup was discussed at our last general meeting and it was enthusiastically agreed to hold the Christmas party on the 12 of December at our workshop with everybody bringing a plate duly coordinated by Ann, John and others. Reflecting on the last few years we should have some fun.

I also would like to thank Sue and Michael again for their professional and enthusiastic presentation of the defibrillator for our neighbours the 'Moruya Antique Machinery and Tractor Association' and the 'Original Gold Rush Colony'. Both parties expressed their appreciation to be welcomed in the use of the equipment and thanked Sue and Michael for the presentation.

Everybody attending over the last two weeks duly noted that we moved the workbench from inside to the outside to enlarge our workbench space. The tools and equipment residing in the draws of the workbench are now accommodated in the draws of the nearly completed bench inside. The existing draws under the workbench are for small

project storage and the two bottom draws are dedicated for toys and associated equipment. We also moved the small drill press to a lower dedicated bench to help our vertically challenged members like me to operate the drill press in a more comfortable position. It was noted that the workbench was previously shortened on the left side which accommodated a front vice. We will extend the bench to the original length and install a front vice in due course.

If help is required please do not hesitate to ask, nobody is perfect.

Helmut

### *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 .. 3rd November	Mogo
Christmas party .. 12th December	Mogo

### **Proposed Sales Days 2018:**

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*

# Member's Profile

## My life until now

I grew up in Neu-Isenburg, a town in West Germany very close to Frankfurt. Neu-Isenburg was established in 1798 for Huguenots fleeing France from religious persecution. Hence my surname and the town today still has a high percentage of French family names. My extended family was very large and supportive which was probably very common at the time. Sport was football, snow skiing and table tennis.

I left school when 14 and undertook an electro mechanical apprenticeship which I completed with a 100% practical and an average theoretical result. After the completion of my apprenticeship I was called up to undertake my national service which was compulsory and for an 18 month duration at the time. I chose the navy for something different and electronics which was the new thing in the industry. The first three months of my time was running around with a gun playing shootem-ups and learning how to tie knots. Then life became interesting -I was assigned to the flying navy to a helicopter search and rescue unit. After a three month training course I was proficient in maintaining all the helicopter communication and navigational equipment. During my time I was based on some islands on the German north coast to support small communities with medical evacuation, shipping medical emergencies and search and rescue missions (more civilian than military).

After the military I enrolled in further studies to obtain a certificate engineering degree which was sponsored by the government at the time. Before I migrated to Australia in 1971 I worked as a test field and service engineer. My first job outside Germany was in Istanbul to commission the emergency power supply in the Ataturk Stadium.

Friends introduced me to some Australian public servants who worked at the Australian Consulate in Frankfurt. This relationship helped in the decision to migrate to Australia. The original intent was to spend some time in Australia then return to Germany and find a good job and live happily ever after. I arrived in Sydney on a Wednesday, found accommodation at Bronte beach, went sailing on the Saturday on a 28 foot yacht on Sydney harbour and Germany disappeared over the horizon.

I started work for a very large German electrical company (Siemens) as a service engineer. My first 18 months I spent in Port Kembla assisting in commissioning a large rolling mill, blast furnace and three smaller rolling mills. My next assignment was the stage lighting system in the Sydney Opera House which used an industrial computer system with a 5 bit 4k memory which was at the time mind bending.



In the next eight years I spent approximately three years in Germany with the company being trained on the latest technology and system knowledge.

In 1976 Mandy and I married in Kincumber near Gosford where her parents lived. We had a son in 1979 who was born in Germany during one of my training stints. Our daughter was born in Australia in 1983 and we lived in Carlingford (Sydney) at the time.

During my time with Siemens I worked on some very interesting projects on the electrical systems, controls and automation side of diverse industries from brewing, material handling, machinery, mining to opera houses. Highlights were: container cranes around Australia; first gas turbine driven ship built in Whyalla for BHP; Tomago Aluminium Smelter; iron ore storage and loading facility in Port Headland; North West Shelf gas rig and storage facility; Kooragang coal storage and loading facility; NSW Power Stations boiler controls; Queensland coal mines and ship loading facilities; warehouses and cold stores.

The locations of most of the jobs were not in the most desirable place or had the best living standards but it was very satisfying on a personal level to see machinery move, ships sail and plants produce.

Sometimes you have pot luck as well. A breakdown on a container crane in Vanuatu had me working for 30 minutes every day for seven days. I was taken around the island and shown the sites; stayed at the Park Royal opposite Club Med (the French food was not bad either); and whilst waiting for some parts in Samoa sipped on cocktails at Robert Louis Stevenson hangout the 'Aggie Gray Hotel'.

In 2001, along with two other Siemens engineers, I started an electrical engineering company (Sigma NSW) which is still successfully operating today. As a company we operated in the same field and technologies but expanded our portfolio more into design and automation notably in coal operations and beer brewing. During my time with the company we won the prestigious PACE award for the best project of the year - twice!

I retired in 2012 and we moved from Sydney to South Durras where we extended a weekend house we built in 1996 to house all the woodworking equipment. We always had an affiliation with Durras through Mandy's family who went there as teenagers on holiday. We have 5 grand children - the oldest a boy is turning 14 soon and is 6 foot tall, and the youngest a girl is 14 weeks old.

Next meeting will be held on **Saturday 3rd November 2018 at Mogo Workshop.**

BBQ will be held at 12 noon followed by the meeting at 1 pm.

**NEXT MEETING**

# Safety Corner

The twin drum sander was left in an unsafe condition. On the front roll the sandpaper was loose and ripped. The back roll had a 10 cm burn mark on the left side.

It is imperative you inform somebody if a problem occurs to avoid further damage.

It is not always somebody's fault that the paper becomes loose and consequently rips. Accidents can occur but please inform somebody to fix it.

Helmut

This is a timely reminder from JJ, our OH&S Officer, of the following -

The following rules apply to **everybody**, whether they are frequent or occasional users of machinery and equipment :

- qualified or suitably trained personnel only to use equipment
- wear suitable attire for operating machinery or equipment
- keep equipment and the surrounding area clean and tidy at all times
- always seek instruction before using an unfamiliar piece of equipment
- only use tools and machines for their intended purpose
- report any damaged equipment and do not use it until it has been repaired by a qualified person
- where machine guards are provided they must be kept in place
- never distract the attention of another member when operating equipment and never indulge in horseplay
- always use the appropriate personal protective equipment
- long hair must be restrained
- never use compressed air for cleaning clothing and machinery
- Report ALL hazards, unsafe conditions and work practices.

If you have an idea on how to increase or rearrange the useable space for members please bring it to the attention of our illustrious EI President or his loyal Deputy EI President.





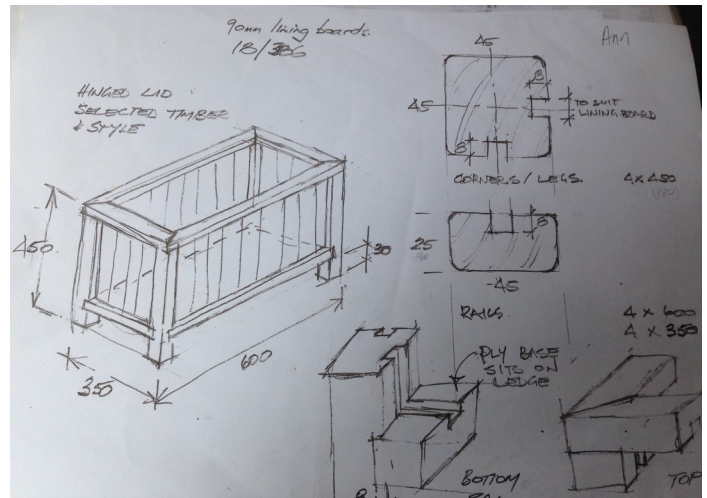
# Club Projects

## TOY BOXES :

Peter McDowell was approached to make a toy box as a 'one off' project. In his wisdom, he thought this would be a good opportunity to not only enhance the skills of fellow Woodies members, but to build a few boxes to offer as items for our up-coming Sales Days. So he set to and designed the box and gathered a team comprising Ann Salmon, Nick Stone, Barry Fenning and David Keating who took on the challenge. When completed, the Club will end up with 4 great looking toy boxes - two which have now been sold, with the other two to go on sale. Timber was sourced from existing stocks, including the shea oak slabs from Dana's property used for the sides and lid.



*Work-in-Progress*



*Toy box plan*

The Club was requested by a lady in Tasmania to make some lids for her collection of decanters. John Tanner turned 10 lids (of two different types) out of various timbers including Rock Maple, Huon Pine, Red Box, Radiata Pine, Red Gum, Jarrah, Sassafras, Black Bean, Celery Top Pine and Spotted Gum. The lady was so pleased when she collected (and paid) that she ordered 8 more which John hopes will be made by his Woodturning students.



# Around the Workshop

As mentioned in Helmut President's Report, enhancements to the workshop are an ongoing activity, and Peter Brotherton and Mark Nisbet have been busy of late moving the large workbench from inside the workshop to its new location just outside the door in the undercover area. It has been replaced inside by a custom built workbench with multiple draws and will incorporate the drill press on one end. Also Peter has tidied up the shelving and top of the Sign-in Bench and has requested this not be used as a dumping area of miscellaneous items (or in his words .. JUNK!)



*New internal workbench, still a work-in-progress*



*Old workbench relocated already being put to good use*



The club library is always open for business.

It holds over 70 books on most woodwork subjects, over 200 current and back issues of woodworking magazines, videos, and most current catalogues of tools and woodworking suppliers.

Members must sign out any item borrowed and sign it back in when returned.

Also, just a reminder that it is important we all wear our name badges when at the workshop and at sales days. Don't forget we have a number of newer members and it is a courtesy to both them and other Woodies who aren't always at the workshop.

*Edited by Christine Birks and Malcolm McDonald  
(All complaints to Malcolm, compliments to Chris)*

**Club Website :** [www.eurobodallawoodies.org.au](http://www.eurobodallawoodies.org.au)

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