

# *Eurobodalla Woodcraft Guild Inc*

## MEMBERS NEWSLETTER

September 2019

### President's Report

Welcome to our Annual General Meeting for the year 2018/2019. Reflecting on my first year as president, I enjoyed every minute of it and consider it a privilege to be part of great bunch of people from all walks of life. Our ladies deserve a special mention for their woodworking skills, commitment and calming influence on everybody. Without sounding in anyway sexist I think they also make great cakes.

The year started with some worrying news about our landlord's failing health which could impact on our patronage at the Mogo Gold Fields. The committee decided to explore the possibility of new premises in or near Mogo to keep the central aspect of our location for the members. Committee members composed a letter to express our requirements and needs for a move to a different location. We also informed our landlord of our intent and with her blessing we sent out the letters in January to Council members and Clubs in our Shire. Everybody answered the letter, the Mayor answered for the Councillors as well as the Federal Member but nobody could commit to anything specific only if the need arises. I had the opportunity during the Eurobodalla Show to talk to Fiona Phillips but she was a candidate at the time and Andrew Constance who was very positive at the time and promised help if the situation should arise. The point was made that I had two witnesses to the conversation and said I will hold him to that. He acknowledged my point with a laugh and confirmed he will help. As an update our landlady just returned from France in good health so we hope to stay here for some time.

Our workshop improvements were limited to moving the woodworking workbench to the outside workshop area. We rebuilt the extension and the vice to the bench to create additional workplaces.

A bench with drawers was built for storage in the place freed from the move of the workbench. At the

same time we built a lower drill press stand with storage to make it more comfortable to operate the drill press. Due to Don Geeves ingenuity and handiwork we saved ourselves some major machine

replacement costs. At this

point I would like to express our sincere thanks to Don and the two Peters for maintaining and repairing our machine park and everything else which need to be done in the club. Consequently we were not required to spend large sums of money on new machinery. We invested in timber from one of our founding members, mainly Cedar, Huon Pine and some exotic turning blanks. Our timber stocks grew again this year due to the hard work of our slabbing team and the generosity of Wendy and Eric Simms. We invested in some tooling for our turners and additional general tooling items.

We limited our project intake to charitable organisations, Council, Clubs and schools only to concentrate more on sales items for the Club and work for ourselves. This was also muted by the Premiers Department through our umbrella organisation advising not to go in competition with local manufacturing organisations.

Another major contributor to our finances was the sales days we conduct during the year. This year we were exceptionally successful due to the introductions of new items and designs in particular serving and cutting boards. The introductions of puzzles with resolution possibilities were very educational and were well received. Another contributor was the introduction of our credit card reader through PayPal which was introduced last year. We also received a substantial donation from an unnamed donor of \$1450.



We were successful in receiving a grant for a defibrillator which we installed outside our workshop. The defibrillator was expertly demonstrated to a wider audience by Sue Page and Michael Barkley in it's use.

This year we applied for a community grant sponsored by the NSW government. Probably interacting with any government organisation requires endless patience to complete forms and questionnaires. Mark Barraclough and Nick Stone have all that and more and brought the application forward for submission. Consequently I as the "sponsor" had to confirm the application in the same format again which I did with the help of Nick. The grant was for a Lukas Sawmill to help our aging slabbing team and make the process safer and less backbreaking. The awarding of the grant was through an online public voting system. As I was writing the current paragraph the results were emailed to me and we came smack bang in the middle of 35 projects in the Bega electorate with 580 points which is representative of 58 voters who put us first. In retrospect the exercise was interesting in its development but we competed with projects from organizations which were Council sponsored and the other had over 2000 members who were the eventual winners with 1726 and 1477 points respectively.

#### POST SCRIPT :

The General Committee has since had a meeting and it was noted that we refill the sandpaper box on a regular basis and nobody except the turners should use this sandpaper. Please note the sandpaper is for workshop use only and if somebody requires sandpaper for private use it is available for \$4.00 a metre. Also timber for private use from our slab store is available for \$1000.00 per cubic meter. To put that in perspective a single slab 2m long x 70cm wide x 50mm thick would cost \$70.00 which is roughly a third of the current market price.

Looking at items produced from our members throughout this year it is very pleasing to see the outstanding quality of products. I would like to congratulate all the participants and winners of the Eurobodalla Show & Tilba exhibition, fantastic. A special acknowledgement to our two resident sculptures Nick Hopkins and David Keating for their outstanding imagination and vision. Also their skill and practicality in lopping our borer infested trees in our backyard.

My vision for next year is the reduction of machinery use and an increase in the use of hand tools. Also to further the production of fine woodworking items for our two exhibitions of the year and that everybody embraces work safety as a priority at our workshop and at home.

In concluding I would like to thank everybody for their support during the year, their advice, their good will, their camaraderie and lively conversations over morning tee, lunch and before locking up. To the committee for their dedication and assistance thank you.

Looking forward to what next year brings.

Be well, Helmut

### *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 12th October @ 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**

# SHOW & TELL

Once again Peter McDowell has been busy turning and carving Australian wildlife figures. This time cockatoos have been carved in relief on both sides of this vessel, turned from radiata pine.

These two dishes were also turned by Peter from a piece of acacia. Note the beautiful grain in the timber. Peter has promised to show the novice turners how to shape an elongated bowl such as these.



Ron Green made this Fire Truck from plans he obtained from a Queensland toy maker.

He used various wood offcuts left lying around the workshop (mainly Pine and some blue gum) to build the fire truck. Ron is a newish member and has been inspired by our very own Les Bamford so this challenge Ron took on just to see if he could do it. No question, the fire truck is a great job.

Below : Bob Shelley crafted this set of 4 coasters with a handy little matching tray, all made from various timbers layered in contrasting colours.



Above : Mike Barkley has been at it again, using whatever materials available around the workshop to put together this variety of serving boards. The large rectangle board has inserts for placing small bowls, and routed space to hold small knives.



## SHOW & TELL, cont'd

Looks like a flying saucer doesn't it. Well, actually it's a lidded vessel turned by Len Newman in pine. Len had made the handle and plinth a few years ago from myrtle and blackwood. He came across them recently and thought it high time he made a base for them.



Len also turned these four wine bottle coasters from pine and red cedar. For the two small tops Len used shea oak.



Ann Salmon has been on the lathe again, making more lidded vessels in silver poplar. These are further examples of her growing expertise on the lathe.



### **NOTE :**

**THE OCTOBER GENERAL MEETING WILL BE DELAYED UNTIL SATURDAY OCTOBER 12, DUE TO THE LONG WEEKEND.**



# Club Projects

The project from Anglicare for two bench seats was taken on by Eric Simms who designed, sourced materials and led the project to completion. He chose the spotted gum available from our stocks, and with help, milled them down into planks. These were then cut to size, edges routed and holes pre-drilled for a temporary fitting, pulled apart, then finally made into benches.

Then started the task of sanding down, undercoating - yes undercoating that beautiful timber - ready for a final coat of forest green to the specifications of the client.

The weight of each bench was considerable, so it was good to get them finally out of the workshop. The Anglicare team are now working on the area to place them outside their hall in Moruya, and a final photo of them in situ will be available in a later newsletter.

The project was quiet profitable for the Club, reaping \$250 per bench, with total costs of \$150, so well done Eric, Peter McD. and the other band of happy helpers including Val, Mike and Mark.



*Happy volunteers testing benches for 'comfort'*



*Above : Peter McDowell in the process of sanding.*

*Left : Chris Birks and Linda Walker starting to undercoat. The undercoating was finished by Val Byrne*

# Workshop Safety

At the Annual General Meeting in September, Peter Brotherton spoke on the issue of personal safety and correct use of machinery following a series of incidents in the workshop over recent months. This article is not to castigate those responsible, but rather to remind ALL members, both long term and newbies, that we cannot become complacent when working with potentially dangerous tools and equipment. Please read further .....

“Over the years the Guild has had only minor injuries occur to members and this is because of the emphasis on workshop safety and the correct use of our equipment. However, things that have occurred over the past couple of months are putting our safety record in serious danger.

Some members are at risk of causing themselves serious injuries such as the loss of fingers or hands because of the practices they have been observed using. There is also a risk to other members who may be in the vicinity.

These include using the compound saws while holding timber at an angle away from the table; using drill presses at wrong speeds or drilling small pieces of wood while holding them by hand; and using band saws without proper support of the work. All our equipment has adjustments for cutting and drilling at angles. There are numerous holding vices to support work, and saw tables are there to support the work on both sides of the blade. You may also have to make a custom shaped support for odd pieces. It's time consuming to do some of this but this is better than losing a body part.

An incident occurred last Wednesday on a band saw where the work was not properly supported and the blade was not running vertically. This resulted in the blade getting extremely hot and eventually kinking and jamming. Fortunately there was no personal injury. Upon trying to replace the blade, however, it was found that it was so hot it had melted a plastic component of the saw resulting in the support bearings and main drive wheels being covered in melted plastic. It took 2 members a long time to clean up the mess and get the saw running again, and a part will need to be replaced.

Members are asked to keep in mind their personal safety and the safety of others and are reminded that work pieces must be properly supported and lie flat on tables. If you are not sure that what you are doing is safe for you and will not damage a machine, seek assistance.”

Additionally, we have been asked not to use the air compressor to clean the workshop. Ann Salmon did a demonstration of the air compressor in August, which brought to light the dangers of this piece of equipment. It should only be used for specific tasks by the Workshop Supervisor on the day.

## Machinery Demonstrations

Unfortunately I was away for a couple of weeks this month, and so I missed the machine demonstrations of dust collectors awareness and Eric's demo of hand tools. Perhaps these may be repeated next year sometime. Malcolm has asked for suggestions of any piece of workshop equipment or hand tool you would like demonstrated in 2020. Just send him an email to be included in the schedule.

The remaining machinery demos for the year are :

October 9th - Workshop safety by Helmut Delrieux

October 23rd - Tools borrowing book and library awareness by Michael Barkley

November 13th - Festool domino joiner by John Clement

November 27th - Clamps storage by Linda Walker



# Around the Workshop

You may recall the fabulous desk Sharyn Morrison made for her youngest son early in 2018. Well, her other son requested a piece of her talents, and so Sharyn started on a dining table top for him earlier this year. How satisfying must it have been to ship the table to Wollongong, arriving safe and sound in one piece, with not the slightest of damage. Here are some photos and commentary of the project as it progressed.



The third photo shows the table in the shed before the finish was applied.

The last photo show the table in its new home with legs attached.

Sharyn writes : The first 2 photos show the use of Helmut's unique clamping system. This is the second time I have used this which enables joining long lengths and uneven sides.



Table dimensions:

2200 x1100 x30mm. Sits 8 very comfortably.

Made from three slabs of River She Oak. Cut into five lengths and two shorter ends. Each length has been joined with seven biscuits.

The legs were made by my son. Two enclosed steel rectangles 100wide x 10mm thick. Attached with ten screws each end to help stabilise the timber.

Mark Barraclough recommended a Osmo Polyx-Oil finish. A natural hardware-oil combination that is water and dirt resistant. I sourced this from the Nowra Paint shop. It was the perfect finish for this dining table. I continue to be impressed with this timber. The colour and grain look amazing!

I would like to thank everyone for their valuable advice and assistance, for their patience with having such a large item in the shed for so long and their help carrying the table in and out of the shed. It is all very gratefully appreciated. Without all your help this table wouldn't look so impressive. (Well I think it does) It has spurred me on to bigger and better things .. so look out everyone!!! And then it was gone! I apologise to those who didn't see it finished.



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This item by Nick Hopkins is called "SPIRALLING CURIOSITY" and is exhibited in the Sculptures for Clyde at the Clyde Street Batemans Bay gallery. Nick's explanation is...."This eclectic work is a marriage of four different timbers presented on a rotating base for interesting visual effect".





# Sculpture for Clyde

The annual sculpture exhibition in Batemans Bay and Willinga Park, Bawley Point has come and gone again. Unfortunately I missed it this year, but the 'happy snapper', alias Malcolm McDonald, has provided just a sample of the fabulous work done by our very own artist, Nick Hopkins, and many others. If you too did not get to the exhibition, I hope you enjoy these photos ....

This is Nick's work titled **"MYTHICAL BEAST EMERGING"** and his explanation is...."The beast struggles to emerge from inanimate form in this piece inspired by Michelangelo's uncomplete marble sculptures".



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**WATER DANCER** - winner of Peoples Award.



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**LINK** by Michael Van Dam. Award winning artist from the Gold Coast. Stainless steel chain welded together to form the linked sculpture

## THE CLUB CHALLENGE

Don't forget Woodies members have been challenged to produce an item that can be hung on a wall, using the Club's river she-oak slabs. Small amounts of other materials to enhance the creation, e.g. glass for a picture frame, etc., is allowed but should be kept to a minimum. The works have to be exhibited at the Christmas Party on December 7, and will be judged by John Clement, who is the brain child of the Challenge. He will take into account style, imagination, execution and ability (but definitely not the size of the bribe!!). So get cracking - only 2 months left.

## WOODY OF THE YEAR AWARD

Nominations are now open for the prestigious award of "WOODY OF THE YEAR". Please give your nomination to Helmut either in person or to his email address. As usual, the Award will be presented at the Year End Christmas Party

*Edited by Christine Birks and Malcolm McDonald*

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

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