

Eltham and District Woodworkers Inc.



Reg. Number A0025947P

Newsletter Editor:

The next newsletter will come out at the end of April. Please forward any articles or information that you would like to go into newsletter to Richard Smith at richardasmith1955@gmail.com by the 27 May.

Next General Meeting and Annual General Meeting:

Wednesday 1st May 2024 at 7:30 PM

At Clubhouse

Cnr De Fredericks and Ironbark Roads

Yarrambat

FROM THE SECRETARY'S DESK....

April, 2024

Another month flies by!

I've been working through previous minutes from the committee and general meetings, pulling out motions and proposals, or other noteworthy items. Creating a document where all motions passed and proposals either agreed to or not which will make it easier to find relevant information ie a motion that is carried that approves of a particular purchase etc. It has made for very interesting reading and has given me more insight into the club and how it has changed over time. I still have a bit to do with it, but it will be worth it in the end I think.

You will be well aware that we have ongoing issues with our plumbing...some very odiferous emissions. Council has always been quick to come and fix it, trouble is, it doesn't stay fixed. This last call out has seen the purchase of a new pump and a bit of digging around the main manhole. Fingers crossed it will work!

I attended Hamish's Skills and Techniques session this Monday. I found it very interesting and felt inspired to make my own scale models for some of the projects floating around in my head. There was a very good turnout, and there have been good numbers for previous sessions, so I think this has been a great success. Hamish does a great job and is happy to take suggestions from members as to what they would like to have presented at these

sessions. Hamish also draws from the membership to take part and share their knowledge, skills and techniques, these sessions have been very informative as well. It shows that there are many ways to do something.

The AGM is looming large on the horizon now, the 1st May is just next week. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time as secretary and am grateful to all who have helped me along the way. I have had a lot of support.

We have nominations for all of the Executive positions, which is fantastic. We may have one or two vacant positions for a general committee member. This is yet to be confirmed. I would like to thank those who are leaving this year for all their hard work over the period of their tenure. Their input to the club and the committee is greatly appreciated. The AGM will be followed by the May General Meeting, and there will be some light refreshments at the end for those who would like to stay for a bit and mingle.

Christmas in July is going to come around quickly as well, I think. I will be working with Santa's little helpers to plan and prepare for it. There will be double the quantity of my mulled wine! Last year's disappeared very quickly with people looking for more. More information will follow over the period leading up to it. Get your Christmas Clobber out, there will be a prize for the best dressed elf, Santa, reindeer, Mrs Claus etc

Cheers

Jane



*We had a visit from Vicki Ward, our local member and Lauren Kathage who were there to commend us on our successful application for funding toward the shed.

Wood stains

Whittlesea Men's Shed have been donated 16 containers each containing approx. 10 litres of various wood stains.eg. walnut, old Baltic, English oak etc. They cannot use that amount so before disposing of it they thought perhaps EDWC members may be interested in some of it.

If interested please see Jane.

Introducing the Club's NAIL EXTRACTION tools.

The Clubs addition of tools for EXTRACTION of nails now displayed on shadow board. Still required to complete the set-- (Bunnings) Trojan 200mm end cut pliers & floor board nail puller.

Tools that could be converted and you would like to add to our collection are most welcome. There is an interesting Google site explaining different methods of extracting nails.

"Removal of nails in wood without damage."



Wes Weight.

Membership fees due

Members are reminded that membership fees of \$20 for the period 1 April to 30 June 2024 are due. This fee was part of the change to the club's membership year which was agreed by members at the February Special General Meeting. If you haven't paid already, please pay as soon as possible.

Payment details were included in the recent email to members.

David Brookes

Mentoring Mondays

The last skills session we had on designing and model making was extremely well attended, and I hope those that were there got something out of it, if not quite what they had expected. Our next, as requested, will be looking at and cutting your own dovetails (see below), so please come prepared to cut some timber and have a go.

Skills Techniques and Safety

ALL MEMBERS WELCOME

1-00 pm on Monday the 27th of May - The Fourth Tuesday of the month.

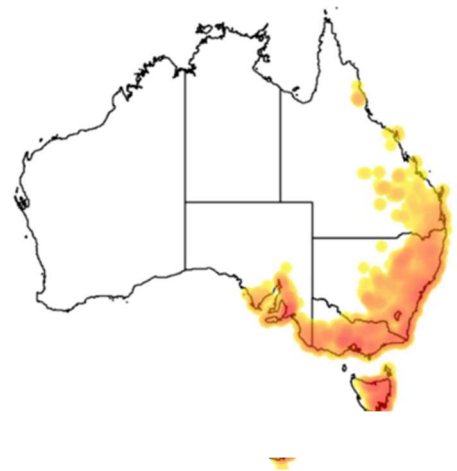
DOVETAILS

Why how and when to use them as well as how to cut them. I hope that everyone interested will arrive with two pieces of prepared timber, each approximately 300mm long by 75mm wide and 15 to 20mm thick. Then you can have a go at cutting your own after some discussion and demonstrations. Any members that have particular skills or techniques with dovetails would be welcome to come along and show us what you do, please get in touch with me and get involved on the 27th. Please send me a message 0428577878.

Hamish

The Cherry Ballart

Cherry Ballart could be the name of a femme fatale in one of Raymond Chandler's novels but more to the point it is the name of a rather special small tree. *Exocarpus cupressiformis* with common names of cherry ballart, native cherry and cypress cherry belongs to the sandalwood family of plants. It is one of nine *Exocarpus* species endemic to Australia and superficially resembles a cypress, hence *cupressiformis* or cypress-like. It is a large shrub or small tree, 3 - 8m. tall, often pyramidal in shape. It grows from the coast to the leeward fringe of the Great Dividing Range from the Atherton Tablelands in Queensland to Tasmania and across to the Eyre Peninsula in South Australia



The cherry ballart has inconspicuous flowers arranged in clusters on short spikes. The inedible fruit is a hard, greenish nut, 4-6mm long found on top of the stalk. As the fruit develops the stalk swells to 5-6mm in diameter and turns yellow or red, forming the edible "cherry". The true, seed-like fruit is found on the outside of the fleshy false "fruit", hence *Exocarpus*, from the Latin meaning outside fruit. This characteristic is also the reason that this tree was considered by the Wadawarrung people to be a men's tree. The fruit has the delicate texture of an European cherry and is quite sweet with a subtle salty finish, making it a refreshing snack on a Winter/Spring bushwalk.

Cherry ballart is hemiparasitic meaning that it can photosynthesise but gains extra nutrients by attaching its roots to host plants, especially eucalypts. This is advantageous when young

as it grows in shallow soils in sclerophyll forests and on granite outcrops and the parasitism gives it a boost.

Its distinctive shape led to cherry ballart being marked on early Australian orienteering maps, since they are in a cartographic sweet spot: obvious, just numerous enough to make them useful, but not so many as to make them clutter the map. That was until Australia held the World Orienteering Championships in the mid 1980s when the standardisation of Australian orienteering maps for overseas competitors led to the cherry ballart becoming an early victim of (cartographic) internationalisation.

The timber is pale, soft and light, very fine-grained with little figure but often striking colour variation - pink, grey and purple. It is excellent for turning and was used for tool handles, wheel spokes and gun stocks. The strong wood was used by the first Australians to make spear throwers and bull roarers. The sap was used to treat snake bite. Wood carvers value it highly. "I've not come across an Australian native wood that is better to carve than native cherry. It's soft, can even be carved when dry, hardy and the colour, white, pink and purple is beautiful. It's even texture makes it great for carving spoons, bowls and kuksas too". (Bodger, *Rambles in the brambles* with J.D. Donne). Early Australian settlers used its branches as Christmas trees.

Cherry ballart is relatively common in Nillumbik, there are a few growing at our place in Hurstbridge. In my pre-woodworking days gathering firewood was an important activity and I must confess some were burnt in the slow combustion stove. It splits easily. I rescued a few small bits from a neighbours property recently and had a bit of fun making a spoon and an iPad stand.



Many have tried to propagate the cherry ballart, few have succeeded. Bird-ingested seed (passed through hens), extracted and sown into pots with host plants such as kangaroo grass (*Themeda triandra*) has germinated for some, others say that this technique was unsuccessful. It suckers vigorously from damaged roots and coppices well, making it a useful windbreak or screen. It is rare on farming land as it was believed to be toxic to stock, though there is some dispute about this.

Cherry ballart is a powerhouse in terms of providing protection and a food source for a massive variety of wildlife. The soil underneath is dark and rich and supports a ground layer of salt bush and shade-loving dichondra repens. Often a scrape in the soil on the south side will show where an eastern grey kangaroo or swamp wallaby has rested. Bronzewings are

often seen under them, ringtails build dreys in their branches and koalas seek their coolness on hot summer days.

And in case you're wondering what ballart means, join the club. In the OED it was only recorded in the Middle English period (1150-1500), it is now an obsolete word and the meaning is hidden behind a paywall. In Gaelic, ballart signifies noisy or boasting. I can only find one indigenous reference to ballart. In the Wajarri language (NW Western Australia, Geraldton way) one of the meanings is leafless. Perhaps the word was used to describe another Exocarpus species and it spread to the eastern states. Dubious.

Peter Goddard

FOR YOUR INFORMATION:

Committee Members for Eltham and District Woodworks Club Inc.

Vice President	Raman Rao	0433 741 753
Secretary	Jane Hammett	0408 195 965
Treasurer	Dave Brooks	0438 344 024
Committee		
Peter Davey		0421 544 115
Martin Ganter		0405 783 592
Richard Smith		0405 611 757

DATES FOR THE CALENDAR:

General meeting Wednesday 1 May

Provisional working dates for:

WORKING BEES

Sunday 7th July @ 9.00 – 12.30 followed by a BBQ

Sunday 6th October @ 9.00 – 12.30 followed by a BBQ

CHRISTMAS IN JULY

Sunday 27th July 12.30

Social Events

We are working towards some more social events throughout the year

These will be posted once they are set.

WORKSHOP SCHEDULE:

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Second Sunday Scrollsaw 9.00 – 4.00pm Steve Mitchener 0409 003 487	Every Monday Mentoring 9.30am-11.30pm Charlie Camera 0413481699	Every Tuesday Open Workshop 8.30 am-12.30pm Colin Groves 0417 563 699	Every Wednesday Wes' Exhibition Toy Making 9.30am – 12.00pm Wes Weight 0478 021 269	Every Thursday Open Workshop 9.00am-1.00pm Paul Rushton 0417 017 347 (Paul will also assist with Hands on Safety Training) Sylvester Konieczny 0407 009 951	First & Third Friday Wood Carving 9.00am-3.00pm Rod Gorfine 0418 108 551	First & Third Saturday Open Workshop 9.30am-12.00pm Aurora Messina 0401 866 859 Second & Fourth Saturday Open Workshop 9.00am – 12.00pm Colin Groves 0414 795 347 Toby Grant 0488 994 741 Fifth Saturday Open Workshop 9.00am – 12.00pm Colin Groves 0417 563 699 Second & Fourth Saturday 4.30pm Safety Training Hands off *notify Raman or Kevin if you wish to attend Raman Rao 0433741753 Kevin Seviar 0413 831 742
Third Sunday 1.00 – 4.00 Safety Training Hands on *Notify Martin if you wish to attend 0405 783 592	Hamish Hill 0428 577 878 Fourth Monday Skills Techniques and Safety Session 1.00pm – 2.00pm Hamish Hill 0428 577 878 (An email prior to this session will be sent with details of subject matter)	Geoff Oliver 0417 375 782 Shane Watson 0410 850 074 Jane Hammett 0408 19 59 65	First Wednesday General Meeting 7.30pm @ the club rooms Third Wednesday Committee Meeting 7.30pm @ the club rooms	Every Thursday Wood Turning 1.00pm – 4.00pm Rod Gorfine 0418 108 551		
Fourth Sunday Pyrography 9.00am – 4.00pm Steve Mitchener 0409 003 487		Second & Fourth Tuesday Instrument Group 1.00pm – 4.00pm Frank Camera 0427 964 245				