

Eltham and District Woodworkers Inc.



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 July.

Next General Meeting and Annual General Meeting:

Wednesday 3rd July 2024 at 7:30 PM.

**At Clubhouse, War Memorial Park,
Ironbark Road cnr. De Fredericks Road.
Yarrambat.**

President's Report

June 2024

Well, the first month of winter is nearly done, with some very chilly, icy mornings!

Your committee has now had two meetings, both with very full agendas, which we have surprisingly managed to work through most of the items detailed and prioritizing the rest. Hopefully by the time the newsletter is out I will have done the committee report for you.

Around the workshop

Most of you will be aware that we have 4 sawstop activations recently, myself included. Luckily there were no injuries but perhaps some injured egos. Shane has drawn up a document in relation to this that I will circulate shortly. He has created a 'workaround' for the small aluminium mitre gauge.

The shadow boards are being continually worked on, with new homes for the turners' chisels amongst others. Suffice it to say, it is so much easier to find things, as long as they are put back in their place.

Martin and Shane conducted a maintenance workshop on the 16th of June. Changing bandsaw blades was the lesson. There is a bit involved in doing this, but no doubt when we've done a few they will get easier to do. Please take advantage of these training sessions as they will build your confidence around the toolroom.

There are few items of clothing that have been left at the club rooms, they have been there for months now. I'll give it another week and then I will dispose of them either to a charity or the red bin!

I am waiting for the council to get back to me on whether we need a permit for our proposed car boot sale, swap event. We are looking at September/October for this, and at this stage just open for club members. In the meantime, perhaps think about what you might like to offer up. As we work on this you will be provided with the information.

Hamish conducted another great session, this one on butterfly joints – he makes it look so easy! We are getting good numbers for his sessions, which is gratifying. Hamish is also very grateful to receive any ideas on what he can present.

The raffle prizes are coming along nicely, with a few already completed. The bench is coming together really well with the resin pour happening soon. A big thank you to all who are donating their time and resources. Your work is greatly appreciated.

I hope you are thinking about what you can make to exhibit at the Exhibition. The Eltham Festival is being run at the same time, so we are expecting a lot more through traffic with lots of raffle tickets being purchased!

Segue – we had a rather high proportion of raffle tickets returned unsold or not returned at all last year. Hopefully we can turn that around, as it does make it harder for those handling the raffle ticket sales.

Sea Scouts – Joeys

We conducted another session at the Eltham Sea Scouts, this time with their youngest cohort the Joeys. They were very enthusiastic and some with great hammer skills! I only managed to get through two bird boxes before we finished. The time flew by. My thanks to Frank, Richard and Kevin for helping out with the fun.

Club Clobber

Don't forget you can purchase Club Clobber at any time, please contact me if you would like to make a purchase. It would be great to see a lot of bottle green and gold at our events. Everything is sold at cost price, the club makes no money on the sale of these items.

Heads up

The next general meeting is the 3rd of July at 7.30pm. All members are welcome to attend and encouraged to do so.

Christmas in July – Sunday 21st of July at 12.30. Our inaugural one last year was just fabulous, having the new kitchen area to use was perfect. Open to all members and partners, so put your name down on the list as this obviously helps with catering.

Wattle Festival 25th of August – we will be looking for volunteers to man our stall. It is another opportunity to sell raffle tickets and promote the Exhibition. Items made by club members are on display, giving a sneak peek if you like at what the club has to offer. Eltham village – a week or so before the Exhibition we hold a stall at Eltham Village where we, again sell raffle tickets. Again, we will be looking for volunteers to man this.

Exhibition – 9th – 10th November Eltham Community and Reception Centre This is what the club works towards every year and our major fundraiser if you hadn't already guessed. Where beautifully crafted pieces are on display for the public to enjoy. And Wes' workshop is a drawcard for the youngsters, some have been coming along for many years to make the kits that Wes and his dedicated helpers put together. The sales table is full of items for general sale that members have made over the year and covers just about every discipline at the club.

As a result of last year's success, we had a huge amount of interest from people wanting to know more about the club and joining. I think we had about 25 new members – but I could be wrong. Either way, Kevin was kept very busy, and continues to do so with a steady stream of enquiries.

Enough from me....

Jane

From the Secretary's Desk


June 2024

We had a great presentation on CPR & the Defibrillator at last month's General Meeting – Ben from Diamond Creek Ambulance service had a really interesting presentation and we got the chance to ask lots of questions – plus some told a few war stories as well! We had the seats in a circle, rather than rows, so all in all, a nice cosy meeting on a cold Winters night.

Remember that the working bee is coming up soon so we can get the new path in, which will be very useful. Please let anyone on the Committee know if you have other ideas for improvements around the place.

And if working outside in winter seems a bit rough, we've got Christmas in July a few weeks after that, you can come along for good food and interesting company in the warmth as well!

I took the opportunity to go along to the first Maintenance Day and learn more about how the Bandsaw, Jointer and Drum Sander – I for one find knowing how the machine works makes it much easier to use. It was good to see so many turn up and I got to put a few more names to faces I hadn't seen before.

Please reach out if you have any ideas or suggestions for topics you'd like to see covered at the July General Meeting. This month we'll be talking about the Budget for the new Financial Year, the updates to the Club Rules and some of the upcoming events like the Wattle Festival – hard to believe that's now only a few months away. Roll on Spring .

MENTORING MONDAYS

Skills Techniques and Safety

ALL MEMBERS WELCOME

1-00 pm on Monday the 22nd of July

The Fourth Tuesday of the month.

MACHINE WORKSHOP

REVISION AND SKILLS

Many of you still feel uncertain with which machine to use and how to use it. So this session we will revisit some of the machines in the workshop and how to use them safely and better with (maybe) improved results for your woodworking. Any members that have particular skills or techniques with particular machines would be welcome to come along and show us what you do, please get in touch with me and get involved on the 22nd. Feel free to message me 0428577878.

Hamish

A REQUEST

Do any members know someone who may use any industrial metal cutting machines? I am keen to get hold of some old hacksaw blades, 25mm or deeper and/or any broken metal cutting saw blades. If we are able to get some I will run a session on making your own marking knife.

Working Bee

Don't forget our working bee on Sunday, 7th July. We are hoping to complete a path to allow us to bring our timber in the front door as well as other odd jobs. We will need two trailers (attached to cars), if you can help out please give me a call on 0417 563 699. We will also need tools such as shovels (or spades), rakes, wheel barrows, brooms and other working bee tools. We hope to have lots of people helping out on this Sunday from 9am and will provide a BBQ afterwards.

Don't Forget

Colin Groves

Removal of the Mitre Gauge from the Router Table.

At the last committee meeting while discussing the Sawstop activation, we had a look at all our mitre gauge resources.

The mitre gauge that was stored at the Router table was inspected, and as can be seen in the photos below, the graduations and locking mechanism on gauge was found to be heavily damaged and beyond repair. Given that there is a direct replacement for this item, it has been removed.

If a mitre gauge is required to be used on the Router table, please feel free to use the one by the Sawstop. But please return it to its storage location at the saw.



If you find a damaged device, please inform someone on the committee so that we can do something about it.

Saw Stop

The club has experienced a spate of activations of the SawStop Table Saw, so the committee has looked into each activation, the reasons behind it, and the processes and materials involved.

As a result, we have made a change to the small Aluminium Mitre Gauge. Because aluminium readily activates the Table Saw with the slightest contact, we have replaced the aluminium fence with a plywood fence. It's not as pretty, but it works equally well, does not set off the Saw, and is easily replaceable if necessary. Photos attached show the updated Plywood Mitre Gauge in use.

This brings us to a process that we would like to implement and to see all members follow EVERY time they use the SawStop Table Saw.

- First - NEVER assume that the last user has left the Table Saw in a state where it will be set
- up correctly and that you can use it without checking or adjusting.
- ALWAYS check the Table Saw and Fence is correctly setup before you start.
- Go through the basics -
- Ripping (long cuts down the length of the cut)
- Make sure you have a push stick before you begin if the distance between the fence and the blade requires it.
- Make sure the fence has the brake set firmly.
- Remove all obstructions before starting the Table Saw.

- Crosscutting (normally done in conjunction with a sliding fence and the reason for most activations).
- Set up your fence - there are two options: the large black SawStop Sliding Fence and the smaller Plywood Mitre Gauge – both are shown in the photos below.

We have had activations on both. The Sliding Fence has had alterations to its installation to make sure it doesn't get close enough to the blade to cause another activation. This leaves it with an extended gap to the blade, where shorter pieces of wood are not properly supported when making a cut. If this is the case, use the smaller Mitre Gauge shown below. It can be moved right up to the side of the blade giving full support of the work piece as required.

- Once you chose your fence, install it correctly and make any alterations to the height and angle of the blade.
- Lastly, BEFORE turning the Table Saw on, run the fence past the saw blade to ensure there is no contact between the saw blade and the Sliding Fence / Mitre Gauge.
- That's it. It is that easy -- do this every time and false contacts will not happen.
- If your fence contacts the blade, STOP. Adjust the fence to clear the blade, or find someone to help and show you why it is happening.
- NEVER continue if your fence is contacting the saw blade.
- Once verified, turn on the Table Saw and Happy Cutting.

CUBBY HOUSES Charlie insisted I share some pictures of the cubby houses I have been playing at building for visiting grandchildren. This project has given me as much fun as any child of younger years could enjoy. They are constructed mainly from pallets and other odds and sods from my sheds. The design team consisted of one Finnish writer and illustrator who died in 2001, one ageing Australian woodworker, one enthusiastic five-year-old and her little brother two years old.

Enjoy,
Hamish





Hamish

Carving Group Friday 7/6/2024

No Rod and David this week, so I've been roped in to write about what's happening here today. Alwyn is working on his Green Man Face. Quite a big project, so this could take some time.

Hank brought in two large spoon shapes to work on. That should keep him out of mischief for the day. Peter Gannon was working on his Japanese Kumico. Not sure if Kumico is the object he is making, or the art form he is making it in. But it's a Japanese lamp formed from a framework of sticks and is either covered in paper or lined with paper, when its finished. But through the day he had some success with getting pieces trimmed to size and shape.

Chris Boylen was spoon carving in green wood. Said it's easier that way. Keeps it wrapped up in the freezer at home, so it stays moist until he's finished with it.

Kevin was carving a low relief single rose and stem in a nice bit of Jelutong. (I think.)

Bernie was working on his carved chest from previous weeks. Really moving along with this, and the end is in sight. Assembly will start soon.

Steve Hood was starting to carve a face in a 50mm square piece of Kauri Pine. I like using these faces as a training exercise, relatively easy to do and teach basic knife handling skills.

As for me, I was finishing a couple of the small faces that I had been using in training others previously. Gave me the opportunity to work along with Steve H. And guide him along the right path.

Steve Mitchener.

Scrollsaw Group Sunday 9/6/2024

A small group today. We had Chris Hand drilling holes for cars and trucks she is making in thick Jelutong. Once all that was done, Chris got started on cutting them out.

Tony was cutting out a Pleisaur Puzzle in 19mm Radiata Pine.

Steve Hood was cutting out name plates for a couple of his grandchildren. The technique requires you to cut a thin layer under the thick top piece. You then glue a backer to the base of the top piece, then drop in and glue in the letter spacer you have also created. Then you re-insert the top piece letters, and they stand proud of the base so the kids can put them in and out. Hopefully the little buggers will learn how to spell their own names in the process.

And we had a new member, Di Roberts, training on the Scrollsaw. Di was shown a variety of projects that can be made with the Scrollsaw, and run through the theory of good clean cutting, then given an opportunity to make some sawdust.

As for me, I actually did bugger-all. Helping and working with everyone else, and drinking coffee, filled in all my day. Maybe I'll have better luck next time and actually do some work. But I can catch-up tomorrow at home, so it's not a problem

Steve Mitchener.

Carving Group 21/6/2024

Today was the Winter Solstice, which means it was the shortest day of the year. So, we all worked frantically to get things done because we had less daylight to work in

Chris Boylen was shaping a spoon from Silvertop Wattle. Nice chunky solid looking object. Hank was sanding some more of his hand-shapes to within a inch of their lives. They are just so nice to hold and handle

Maikie was whacking a medium sized wombat out of a chunk of wood. Trimmed some of the excess off with a bandsaw, then started whacking the rest of the non-wombat wood off with the chisels.

Bernie was working on the assembly of his small carved chest. Looks great!

Kevin was carving snails, not real ones! He was carving them out of wood. Done some before, just wanted to add to his collection. And we were joined by a couple of new members to the Club and this group. Kerrie Phillips and Charlie Littick. Charlie had done some courses previously and had some of her earlier works to sand while she chatted to Hank who is our sanding expert. So Kerrie and I started on a face, Charlie joined in for a bit later. So I worked along with the ladies on yet another face for my growing collection.

And the day just seemed to fly past. And not just because it was the winter solstice.

Steve Mitchener

Pyrography Group Sunday 23/6/2024

Kevin was an apology, caught up in family matters again. So it was a small group again, but new member Kerrie joined us and the three of us had a great day.

Beryl put a small pirate ship on her small sea chest she has been decorating. Got it all complete except for the rigging lines.

Kerrie was quickly brought up to speed and started on a 'sampler' of a section of Celtic knot work. Great pattern to train on with the unders and overs and shading effects.

I was working on another side of my small Celtic themed box. Soon I'll have all four done and can finish cutting and assemble it. So, Beryl and I used our tablets to show Kerrie the variety of work that can be done with Pyrography. We chatted about pattern application, pattern sources, and all manner of related information. When we got tired of talking, we packed up and went home.

Steve Mitchener.

NOW IS THE TIME,

to shine a light on your exhibits for this year's woodworker's exhibiton. We would like to celebrate your efforts, creativity and craftsmanship. Get cracking on your exhibit now.

You say Kauri and I say

Recently I was at the Melbourne Museum and came across a huge cross-section of Queensland kauri. Many of you will have seen it and have been similarly astounded at its size, 2.4 metres in diameter, and age, over 600 years old. But what is truly astounding about the kauri is that this is an average size example. They can be truly massive.



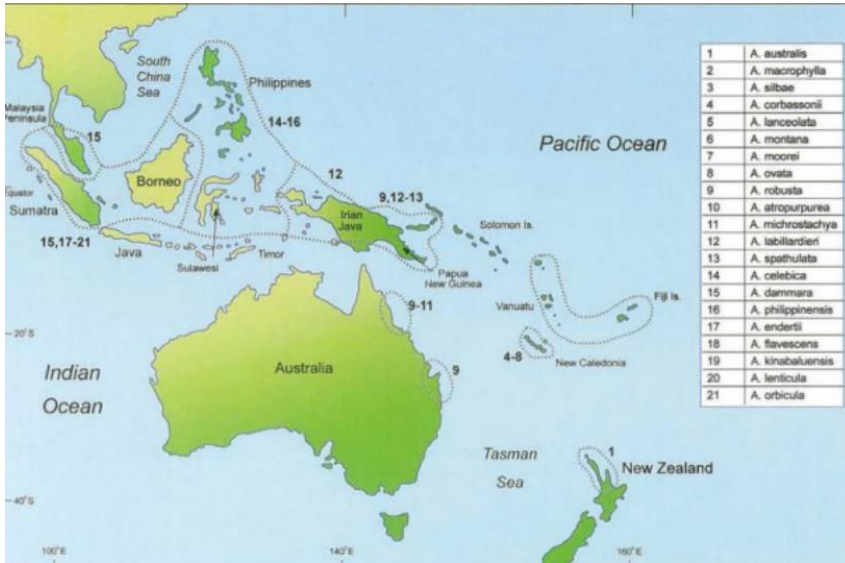
Kauris can grow to 40 – 50 metres in height, big enough but not gigantic. What is distinctive about them is that their trunk doesn't taper like in most trees, it is an enormous cylinder that barrels into the sky and so the amount of timber they produce rivals that of the Californian redwoods that are twice their height. It is branchless for over half its length. A New Zealand kauri known as *The Great Ghost* was 8.54 metres in diameter. One of the existing New Zealand

kauris, **Te Matua Ngahere** (Father of the Forest,) has a diameter of 5.22 metres. Locally these giant New Zealand kauris are known as ‘Fuck trees’ because that is what many tourists say when they first see them. The historical photo below is of a kauri felled in Kin Kin, Queensland (near Noosa Heads) in 1918.

The Queensland kauri, *Agathis robusta*, is found in two disjunct areas, one in south Queensland around Maryborough and on Fraser Island: the other in north Queensland west of Cairns. They were classified as two distinct species according to location, but they have been recently reclassified into a single species.



Their botanical name of kauri is *Agathis* and it is one of the three genera of Araucariaceae, primitive coniferous trees found almost exclusively in the Southern Hemisphere. The 21 species of *Agathis* are found from Sumatra in the west to Fiji in the east. ‘Kauri’ is their Māori name. Their location often becomes their common name, eg. New Zealand kauri, Queensland Kauri and Fijian kauri. The two other genera of the Araucariaceae are *Araucaria* (19 species, trees such as the monkey-puzzle, bunya-bunya, Norfolk Island and hoop pines) and *Wollemia*, which has one species, the Wollemi pine. The species name, *Agathis*, is Ancient Greek for ‘ball of thread’ and this refers to the appearance of the female cones. Although sometimes called a pine, kauri is not a true pine for it has leaves rather than needles.



Kauri are very long lived, some New Zealand trees, *Agathis australis*, are over 1,000 years old. In tropical Queensland they grow faster than in New Zealand and reach their maximum size in 300 years or so. It is difficult to measure their age accurately using growth rings. When conditions are favourable, they may have two growth rings in a year and in other years no growth rings at all. The largest known kauris in Australia now are those growing in botanic gardens such as the one in Albury. Because conditions are ideal and there is little competition, they grow faster than in their natural environment. The Albury tree is about 100 years old and 45 metres tall, nearly the size of the largest kauris ever felled. Worth a visit on your next trip north along the Hume.

A heavy reliance on the highly regarded wood during the earliest stages of the colonial timber industry has left only a few old trees standing, most in remote areas or forest reserves. In the Pacific islands they are now only found on tops of mountains on remote islands. In New

Zealand they are now in danger from the soil-based fungus *Phytophthora*. Enthusiastic attempts by the Queensland Forest Service to grow the kauri in plantations were devastated by large stick insects. As a result kauris are now only grown at a very small scale in mixed species rainforest timber plantations.

Kauri has pale yellowish white heartwood and the sapwood is not clearly demarcated. Due to the trees large size, kauri is nearly always clear and knot-free. The grain is usually straight with a fine, even texture and a moderate natural lustre. The shimmering ray flecks that occur on the face of quarter-sawn timbers distinguish it from hoop and bunya pines that produce a less startling figure. Because it is a softwood Kauri works nicely with both hand and machine tools. It is easy to carve and planes, moulds, nails and turns well. The wood screws, glues and varnishes adequately and can be taken to a high polish. It is an attractive timber when finished, having a warm, golden appearance.

The inner bark of the Queensland kauri was used by indigenous people to make nets. The first European settlers used kauri for kitchen sinks (its very fine grain makes it highly resistant to water), breadboards, bench-tops and flooring. The trunks of young New Zealand kauri (100 years or so) were ideal for ships masts and spars. Kauri gum became essential in the manufacture of varnishes and other resin-based products. The gum was obtained by digging, fossicking in treetops and by bleeding live trees. Synthetic resins have taken over now.

Today the timber is still used in a wide range of interior situations - furniture, cabinetry, veneer, musical instruments (violin bellies and guitars) and flooring. Panels of kauri are used to line boat interiors. Bench-tops in science laboratories were often made from kauri as it is very resistant to staining.

Peter Goddard

Sources:

Michael Yuen: Kauri pines are late-blooming rainforest giants, *The Conversation*, 12/3/2019.

David Johnson: *Agathis robusta* and *Agathis australis*, *Plants in Focus*, December 2016. Friends of Geelong Botanic.

Department of Conservation, New Zealand: Kauri

Websites: Wikipedia, The Wood Database, Any One Wood, The Gymnosperm Database, Wood Solutions

FOR YOUR INFORMATION:

Committee Members for Eltham and District Woodworks Club Inc.

President	Jane Hammett	0408 195 965
Vice President	Raman Rao	0433 741 753
Secretary	Catherine Watson	0449294814
Treasurer	Peter Gannon	0419136235
Committee		
Martin Ganter		0405783592
Shane Watson		0410850074
Rado Starec		0409997948

DATES FOR THE CALENDAR:

General meeting Wednesday 3rd July

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 21st July 12.30

WORKSHOP SCHEDULE:

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Second Sunday Scrollsaw 9.00 – 4.00pm Steve Mitchener 0409 003 487	Every Monday Mentoring 9.00am-12.00pm Charlie Camera 0413481699	Every Tuesday Open Workshop 9.00 am-12.00pm Geoff Oliver 0417 375 782	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 Steve Mitchener 0409 003 487	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 Sevier 0413 831 742
Third Sunday alternate months Date will be announced in the preceding weeks 2.00 – 4.00 Maintenance training *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)	Shane Watson 0410 850 074 Jane Hammett 0408 19 59 65 Second & Fourth Tuesday Instrument Group 1.00pm – 4.00pm Frank Camera 0427 964 254	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 Tom Laber 0429 439 833		
Fourth Sunday Pyrography 9.00am – 4.00pm Steve Mitchener 0409 003 487						