

Newsletter Editor

The next newsletter will come out at the end of October. Please forward any articles or information that you would like to go into newsletter to Richard Smith at richardasmith1955@gmail.com by the 20th November.

General Meeting
Wednesday, 6th November
7.30pm at the clubrooms
Cnr Ironbark and De Fredericks Road, Yarrambat
ALL ARE WELCOME

Presidents Report
October, 2024

Less than three weeks to go until our annual exhibition! Preparations are pretty much in hand, and the exhibition committee is meeting regularly with one this Thursday, and an exhibition newsletter will follow.

We had a working bee recently and while quite low in numbers who attended, we managed to get a fair bit done. But as always, many hands make light work. Colin has written a piece included in this newsletter a bit further along.

Hamish is back from his holiday and a Techniques, Skills and Safety session is scheduled for the 28th of October – marking knives is the topic this month. I sent a separate email today on behalf of Hamish with instructions of what to bring along.

Peter and Hank's Wood Identification Project is gaining a lot of traction. There have been some very generous donations of samples from non-members of the club, as well as from the membership. They are running out of wall space!

Wes and his toy making helpers are busily planning for 2026 Wes's Workshop at the annual exhibition. I'm sure that whatever they come up with will be a hit with the kids (and parents) if previous years are anything to go by.

Shane held another maintenance session yesterday and I believe we have two more 'fixers' to assist with some maintenance aspects of the club.

We have a steady stream of membership enquiries and new members; I imagine that after the exhibition we will have another influx of people interested in our club. And how could they not with all the wonderful woodwork that will be on display and inspiring those who attend.

Christmas is just around the corner, hard to believe I know!

Saturday 23rd November

12.30pm TBC

Plenty Views Golf Park, Yan Yean Road

Menu will depend on numbers; a la carte , two course set menu or finger food. I will circulate when we have numbers set.
I must know by November 10th.

We are asking for a \$10 holding deposit from you.

Bank account details
EDWI
BSB 633 000
Account number 158419054

This is open to spouses or partners and should be a lovely way to celebrate the year we've had.

Jane Hammett

From the Secretary's Desk

Another busy month as we head in for Exhibition! I've still got too many open projects and not enough finished ones, how about you?

Last month's meeting was another small one – we're hoping attendance will improve now we're into Daylight Savings and (fingers crossed) the warmer weather.

We spent a bit of time talking about people not taking care of the club tools– at that stage there'd been damage to Chisels, Tenon Saw and Kapex. Since then, there have been further incidents. Please take care and if you see someone doing something unsafe or using the tools incorrectly, either say something to them or raise it with the Keyholder. And if something does get damaged, please write it in the sign-in sheet.

We did finish on a high note though, with Peter's presentation on the Timber ID Process. He did a great job presenting a very technical topic in an interesting and educational way.

Next Meeting is Nov 6th at 7.30pm

MENTORING MONDAYS

Finally returning to the workshop a couple of weeks ago was quite a shock, it appeared that Charlie had been out recruiting during my seven-week absence, the place was hoaching (look that one up!) I think I suffered a bit of culture shock, the first time back in my dungarees and boots and surrounded by busy woodworkers.

So, by the time you read this, hopefully we will have several mentees with nice sharp marking knives as a result of our session on the 28th.

Skills Techniques and Safety

ALL MEMBERS WELCOME

1-00 pm on Monday the 25th of November

The Fourth Tuesday of the month.

Keeping those blades sharp and safe This session we will revisit sharpening and in particular look at storage, portage and maintenance of fine edged tools.

Any members that have particular skills or interest in these things would be welcome to come along and show us what you do, please get in touch with me and get involved on the 25th. Feel free to message me 0428577878.

Hamish

Carving Group Friday 4/10/2024

Due to the strength of this group, even with four apologies in hand, we still had an attendance of ten people. The four apologies were Rowena Thomson, Steve Hood, John Leahy and Wes Weight. That left enough people in the group to fill the room and create an industrious atmosphere and ensure sufficient repartee to ensure everyone was awake and on their toes.

First we had Maike working at her Airedale carving and giving it some rough form. Quite a bit of wood left that's not 'dog-like' at the moment. And then we had Charlie Littick working on this cute little tendril form. A delicate and beautiful sculptured hand sized item with a little wrap-around tendril at the end. Magnificent!

Kevin was shaping his Gargoyle piece with quite some enthusiasm, while Alwyn was working in a more gentle manner refining his "Mother and Child" piece. This is really shaping up now and assuming very graceful lines.

Hank was sanding his Osage Orange 'Hand objects' with a passion that had to be seen to be believed. And Rod was whittling and shaping a large spoon to add to his growing collection. And Peter Gannon was back with us, starting to make up a Japanese Kumico piece to make into a box lid. There has been no discussion at this stage about the box itself. I would envisage a plain looking construction to focus the attention of the viewer onto the delicate and detailed lid as the centrepiece of this piece of artwork.

Then there was Bernie laying out and carving yet another masterful box out of Oak. His speed, skill and expertise grow with every box he makes.

And Chris Boylen was hacking at a lump of Yellow Boxwood to conform it to a rectangular shaped bowl form. It seems to be resisting his efforts, but Chris has some pretty formidable tools in his arsenal. That two-handed draw knife he's using to rough out the ends is a scary

looking piece of kit!

And me, what was I doing? Apart from getting writers cramp, I was starting to shape up a little Gnome in Jelutong. It's a little offcut donated to me by Chris Hand, because she knows I like to make "little things".

Steve Mitchener.

Scrollsaw Group Sunday 13/10/2024

Rowena, Steve Hood, Jess and Kevin were apologies today, so that left plenty of room for the rest of us to spread out in.

Chris Hand was enthusiastically cutting out pieces for a wooden lock. Some prep work had been done prior to today. And the weird thing about these locks, if done carefully they actually work. (Not that I would recommend them to be used to protect the family fortune, but they do work.) When all the cutting was done, Chris moved on to making more of her solid style cars and trucks.

Kerrie Phillips worked on cutting and trimming the pieces for her chequerboard cutting board. Even had time to glue the thing together so she could take it home. Next step is to cut the outer frame to edge it with.

Tony Orbe started to carefully cut some of the plywood frame work for his Elizabethan Clock project. Steve Hood popped in for a cuppa and a chat at the appropriate time, and later in the day Rowena Thomson dropped in with a Dremel and fittings to see if it was worth keeping. Well, after I played around with it for a while and demonstrated it's usefulness, Rowena decided it was definitely a "keeper".

Between helping Kerrie and playing with the toys, I managed to do some carving on my little Gnome and give him some more shape. I don't currently have any Scrollsaw projects in the works, so I don't need to transport masses of gear up here for the exercise. I am actually saving myself for the Exhibition in November, which actually replaces this session next month. (Can't be in two places at once. And I don't need to practice. Come watch me make sawdust on November 9th and 10th at the Eltham Community Centre. I'll be having fun!)

Steve Mitchener.

Carving Group Friday 18/10/2024

More apologies for this session in the form of Rod Gorfine, Steve Hood, John Leahy and Hank Tyler. But that still leaves enough of us to have plenty of fun.

Bernie is making a smaller version of the wedding box he made in Oak for a family member out of Blackwood for the Exhibition. Carving is all done, and he is trimming, cutting and shaping the other pieces so he can assemble the box. While hand planing the lid flat, he

made one hell of a mess. But he enjoyed himself.

Wes was quietly carving his lizard in Kauri Pine after spending some time detailing the horse carving he had repaired. Chris Boylen was prepping some spoon shapes to demonstrate carving at the Exhibition. Then he went back to wrangling the Yellow Boxwood into rectangular bowl shape.

Maiké was working on shaping her Airedale dog carving. Today it lost a lot of excess weight and ended up looking quite a bit fitter. It definitely looks like an Airedale now.

Peter Gannon was working on his Kumico box lid. It's a lot of fiddly work to make. And Charlie Littick was scooping out the centre of a Teardrop form carving in a nice piece of Huon Pine. This will turn out to be another graceful delicate shape. (Quite unlike me!)

While watching everyone else, I managed to spend some time trimming down my latest Gnome, so he looks more 'Gnomelike'. Not doing too bad since he started off as a triangular scrap of Jelutong. And through the day we had a visit from Steve Hood as he dropped in his raffle tickets. We will be back at it on 1st November, so I'll write some more 'carving stuff' then.

Steve Mitchener.

October Working Bee

Many thanks to those committed souls who helped out on Sunday 7th October. There was a lot of cleaning and removing of dust inside and spreading soil and cleaning the eaves and weather boards outside. I forgot to bring my copy of 'Love Potion Number 9' by the Searchers but the BBQ was well appreciated by one and all. Once again I also forgot to take photos.

Colin Groves

Maintenance

I would like to thank everyone for their efforts in keeping the place tidy. The results of the last clean-up day are obvious and the place is looking great.

We have been discussing that as members of the club we need to be more active in taking responsibility for tool misuse when we see it. The resources that we have access to at the club have been paid for with the sweat and efforts of the current and previous members. As such they need to be respected. But as importantly when you see someone misusing any tool speak up, or if shy grab the keyholder and let them know so that something can be said. Don't leave it for others to fix or replace later, this comes at a cost in both time and money. This means someone else using their precious time when its unnecessary.

A big thank you to everyone who is attending the maintenance training days. These are open to everyone. We aim to increase the skills of those attending and so far, we have been looking at the bandsaws, the dropsaw, the thicknesser and jointer, and the drum sander.

Now speaking of the dropsaw the damage has been noted. No one has come forward to say how it happened. So, for now there are no procedural changes we can make. The damage is significant, and the saw will need to be sent away for repairs. We are holding off on sending it away until after the exhibition to reduce the impact to people trying to finish their projects for the exhibition.

But please note the saw has taken significant damage. And the full implications of this are not known. Please be extra careful when using this tool. And there will be much more dust requiring clean up. So, give it your best efforts and don't leave it for others.

And lastly once trained in providing maintenance you don't need permission to do so. If you see an issue, you're already approved to do it. Have a go. Update the register to let us know what you have done and have a great day.

Remember as club members we are Resource rich and Time poor. Help others in the club optimise their time by doing your fair share.

Cheers

Shane

CAN'T CEDAR FOREST FOR THE TREES

Fun fact – there are five countries with a tree on their national flag. Fiji and Haiti have the palm tree, Equatorial Guinea the silk cotton tree, Belize a mahogany and Lebanon is famous for its cedar.



Belize



Lebanon

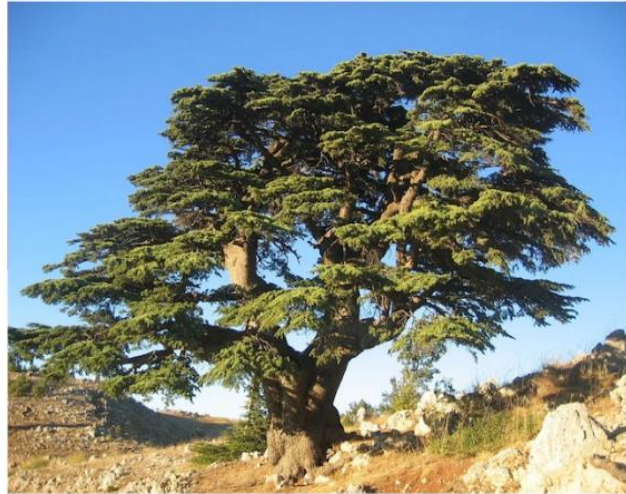
“Cedar” is a generic name that has been given to many different trees because they have, to a greater or lesser extent, similar characteristics. Cedar is:

1. **Aromatic.** They smell good and the scent lingers long after it has been cut or machined. The scents of the various cedars are as different as the species themselves.
2. **Rot resistant,** frequently used for exterior applications.
3. **Relatively lightweight and soft,** easy to work with hand and machine tools.

4. **Reddish brown** (commonly).

5. **Dimensionally stable.** With changes in humidity and moisture content, a lot of cedar species don't shrink or swell too much and if they do they tend to do so in a uniform fashion.

Cedars are a type of **conifer** (cone-bearing seed plants) and so are softwoods. One genus of the conifers is **cedrus**, the so-called "true cedar". There are four species of cedrus, all native to the mountains of the Mediterranean region and the western Himalayas. There is the Himalayan cedar (*Cedrus deodora*), the Cyprian cedar (*Cedru brevifolia*), the Atlas cedar (*Cedrus atlantica*), and the aforementioned Cedar of Lebanon (*Cedrus libani*). They usually grow 30-40m tall and have spicy-resinous scented wood, thick ridged or square-cracked bark and broad, horizontal branches.



Cedar of Lebanon

There is a superb example of *Cedrus libani* in the Melbourne Botanic Gardens. It is a major feature of the Hopetoun Lawn and is thought to be a remnant of the 'pinetum' established by von Mueller in the 1860s. It is a species rarely cultivated in Victoria. There seems to be more Himalayan cedar timber available as a number of club members have some, perhaps from garden specimens that succumbed to storms or outgrew their location.

There are lots of other trees that are called cedars through common usage but they really belong to the juniper or cypress families. They are typically found in warm-temperate and subtropical regions of Asia, Europe and North America. Some examples:

Cypress

Western red cedar (*Thuja plicata*)

Eastern white cedar (*Thuja occidentalis*)

Port Orford cedar (*Chamaecyparis lawsoniana*)

Bastard or incense cedar (*Calocedrus decurrens*)

Japanese cedar/Sugi (*Cryptomeria japonica*)

New Zealand cedar (*Libocedrus bidwillii*)

Persian cedar (*Cupressus sempervirens*)

Juniper

Eastern red cedar (*Juniperus virginiana*)

Bermuda cedar (*Juniperus bermudiana*)

Prickly cedar (*Juniperus oxycedrus*)

No tree better exemplifies the disconnect between its common name and the botanical reality than the Australian red cedar, *Toona ciliata*. Not only is it a **mahogany** from the *Meliaceae* family and so a hardwood, it is also native to many more countries than Australia. Its distribution ranges from Afghanistan through south Asia to Papua New Guinea, Australia and Norfolk Island. It is one of Australia's few native deciduous trees. Some other hardwood cedars from the mahogany family are the Spanish or Cigar-box cedar (*Cedrela odorata*) and the White cedar (*Melia azedarach*), a species that also grows in Australia.



Toona ciliata

The Australian red cedar was once classified as a distinct species, *Toona australis*, but is now recognised as a local variant of the species found further north, *Toona ciliata*. There it goes by a range of names:

Indian cedar, tooni, Indian mahogany, Burma cedar and ai-saria (Timor-Leste).

The carpenters of the First Fleet were disappointed by the standard of timber that greeted them. Eucalypts and allocasuarinas, the most readily available timber around Port Jackson, were too hard and blunted their tools easily. And they didn't know how to cure them successfully. So the discovery of Australian red cedar in rainforest about 10 km from Parramatta soon after European settlement was a bonanza. It was easy to cut, dry and transport and useful for building, joinery and furniture, so much so that it was referred to as "red gold" and by 1798 was the colony's third largest export. It was used for everything. Boats were built out of it because it was pest and water-resistant, one of the few Australian woods that floats. Houses were built out of it because it was durable. It was used for furniture because it was easily worked. Coffins were built out of it because when given a good polish it looked like mahogany! Not much of a surprise there. Mahogany was then a wood of status throughout the British Empire.

Once plentiful in the NSW and Queensland rainforests, as early as the 1790s the government was aware

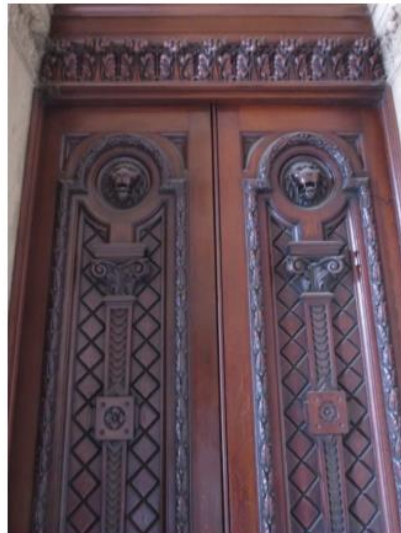
of the possibility of destroying too much of the resource. By the 1870s cedar was scarce in NSW and timber-cutters took their axes and saws north to the Queensland rainforests. The rapacious 19th century timber industry had a severe impact on both the rainforest environment and the Aboriginal peoples. After the timber cutters were finished the farmers

moved in, destroying huge amounts of rainforest and large areas of traditional hunting grounds.

Today the best stands of cedar are found in remote locations. Efforts to grow it in plantations in Australia have been thwarted by the Asian cedar tip moth (*Hypsipyla robusta*), the larvae of which burrows into the leading shoot causing a multi-branched tree with little commercial value. When growing naturally in the relative darkness of the rainforest understory it is less susceptible to attack by the moth, but even so attempts at revegetation have been largely unsuccessful. Small quantities of *Toona ciliata* are imported from Brazil where the cedar tip moth is not found.

The cedar may be more tolerant of location than its rainforest habitat implies. There is a red cedar growing in the Albury Botanic Gardens with a diameter more than a metre wide. The largest planted red cedar is in the Adelaide Botanic Gardens, Australia's driest capital city. First recorded as being present in 1859, the tree has a clear trunk to about 6 metres, is 27 metres tall and was more than 1.2 metres in diameter in 2010.

Australian red cedar has been called "the tree that built a nation". The wood became a symbol of wealth, colonial authority and the growing 'civilisation' of Australia. It decorated churches, dignified town halls and made banks and boardrooms grandiose. Whenever a new courthouse or government office opened it featured red cedar. Yet it has long ceased to be fashionable. When Canberra's New Parliament House was built, the Prime Minister's Office was decorated in Huon pine. Cedar was not the colour of the 20th Century.



Cedars doors, Sydney Town Hall



Early 19th century
Colonial cedar bookcase

Peter Goddard

P.S. The Club currently has eight cedars in its collection: Himalayan (*Cedrus deodora*), Japanese (*Cryptomeria japonica*), Arizona (*Hesperocyparis arizinica*), White (*Melia azedarach*), Western red (*Thuja plicata*), Northern white (*Thuja occidentalis*), Australian red (*Toona ciliata*) and the Peach cedar aka Tree peach (*Trema orientalis*). Donations of any other species, especially the Cedar of Lebanon, would be great. Preferred sample size 150mm x 75mm x 12.5mm.

Sources:

Eric Meier, The Wood Database, 2021

Museums of History NSW, 'Red Cedar in Australia: the tree that built a nation', 2004

Wikipedia

National Trust of Australia, 'Australian red cedar'

'Wood Solutions' website

Sydney Morning Herald, 'Saving grace of the tall timber', 17/5/2004.

R. Reid , 'Grow your own cedar', Australian Wood Review, May 2020.

Friends of Geelong Botanic Gardens, '*Toons ciliata*, Australian Red Cedar', Plant in Focus, May 2024

Member project called Rakali

Rakali is based on the Water Rat boat design by Ross Lillistone, modified by Nick Atkins of Williamstown CNC Works, who also make the parts on his CNC machines. The real water rat is well adapted to its watery world. It has a relatively large, streamlined body, small ears and eyes and abundant whiskers. Its hind paws are webbed, and it has a flat furry tail that acts like a rudder and usually has a white tip. It has glossy water-repellent fur that protects it from the cold.

Well, this Rakali is a bit different. It's hard to describe the Water Rat shape in words. It has a flat bottom, sides that flare out and then tumble back in, a scow bow and a wide transom. There are watertight compartments fore and aft. Overall length is 3.4m, with enough room in the cockpit to lie down, yet it can be carried on one shoulder and is easy to slide up onto a roof rack.

Rakali was built by member Chris Kelly and it's the reason we haven't seen him at the club for a while. Chris is a serial boat builder with an interest in novel designs, including a flat-bottomed rowing boat, a canoe, a punt and a garvey (a boat with a blunt bow).

Rakali snuck off to the Werribee River for a secret test launch where your club's roving reporter photographed its release into its natural habitat.

Rakali touches water for the first time.



And floats on the thinnest water.



Before sailing into its natural habitat...



Chris, congratulations on a successful launch.

Source for description of water rats : <https://www.qld.gov.au/environment/plants-animals/animals/discovering-wildlife/water-rat>. Last accessed: 24 August 2024

Housekeeping

Report all incidents' to the keyholder and in the sign in register (at the bottom of the page)

Those attending out of hours, report any incidents in the sign in book **and** notify Shane or Jane

Be courteous,
clean up after yourself

Kind thoughts, kind words,
kind deeds
(Freddie Mercury)

**FOR YOUR INFORMATION:
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 Hamish Hill 0428 577 878	Every Tuesday Open Workshop 9.00am-12.30pm Geoff Oliver 0417375782 Second & Fourth Tuesday Instrument Group 1.00pm – 4.00pm Frank Camera 0427 964 254	Every Wednesday Wes' Exhibition Toy Making 9.30am – 12.00pm Wes Weight 0478 021 269 First Wednesday General Meeting 7.30pm @ the club rooms Third Wednesday Committee Meeting 7.30pm @ the club rooms	Every Thursday Open Workshop 9.00am-1.00pm Paul Rushton 0417 017 347 Every Thursday Wood Turning 1.00pm – 4.00pm Tom Laber 0429 439 833	First & Third Friday Wood Carving 9.00am-3.00pm Tom Laber 0429 439 833	First & Third Saturday Open Workshop 9.30am-12.00pm Aurora Messina 0401 866 859 Second & Fourth Saturday Open Workshop 9.00am – 12.00pm Toby Grant 0488 994 741 Fifth Saturday Open Workshop 9.00am – 12.00pm Will advise

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	0449 294 814
Treasurer	Peter Gannon	0419 136 235

Committee

Shane Watson	0410 850 074
Rado Starec	0409 997 948

DATES FOR THE CALENDAR:

General meeting	Wednesday 6 th November
Christmas Lunch	Saturday 23 rd November
Bunnings Sausage Sizzle	Sunday 24 th November
Viewbank Scouts	Monday 25 th November
Skills, Techniques and Safety	Monday 25 th November