

**FEBRUARY 2009**

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# *WOODCRAFT MATTERS*

[www.woodcraft-manningham.org.au](http://www.woodcraft-manningham.org.au)

## **MONTHLY GENERAL MEETING**

The speaker for March will be Debbie Domain. Debbie is a WorkSafe inspector in the Manufacturing Logistics and Agriculture section of WorkSafe.

This year she is working in project involving wood and wood products. She will be talking about these issues, and about the latest information about wood dust.

**START TIME IS: 7PM**

**DATE: TUESDAY 3rd of March**

**Don't forget your name badges.**

## **PRESIDENTS REPORT**

The start of the year has seen very little news dissemination since we are still trying to find a new Newsletter editor. This month's is the first newsletter for the current year and has been kindly put out by Gino Centofanti who has volunteered to tide us over the intervening period. Any person who believes that he/she has the necessary computer skills and grasp of English to put together a representative newsletter, please contact me ASAP. The newsletter editor is also automatically a member of the management committee of the club, so the successful applicant must be approved by the committee. We are anxious to have this process over with as quickly as possible, so please move now.

Planning is underway to run an equipment and timber auction in May of this year. Please see the announcement document elsewhere in this newsletter. Peter Oppenheim has kindly offered to organise this event and it has been sanctioned by the committee. It is envisaged that the day will involve demonstrations of each discipline offered by the club, a sausage sizzle and then the auction. Invitations will be sent to surrounding clubs, community groups and the general public. Members (or their friends) are invited to submit items for the auction, be they tools, equipment, surplus supplies or wood. The club will receive a percentage of each sale (yet to be finalised) and each person submitting goods is free to state a reserve price they will accept. Any queries on this function should be forwarded to Peter at

[peter.oppenheim@deakin.edu.au](mailto:peter.oppenheim@deakin.edu.au)

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A combined meeting of the committee and the Group Leaders' was held early in February and resulted in a number of issues being aired, the main one being that a number of Group Leaders felt marginalised by being placed in a separate tier rather than on the committee. After much discussion, it was agreed that the old format which had evolved over the years of having every group leader on the committee resulted in an unwieldy and unconstitutional committee that found it hard to get through the necessary workload without constant chit chat, side conversations and irrelevant discussions. Another concern was that the only three general members of the committee were currently turning group leaders, rather than a representative from each discipline.

Another point raised was that some group leaders take no part in the group leaders' meetings, leaving the same few to undertake all the work. There was also unhappiness expressed that although some group leaders don't participate, people who aren't group leaders turn up to these meetings and the result was even more unhappiness on the part of the group leaders trying to do their job, feeling that the system was becoming somewhat chaotic. There was also some confusion as to the level of responsibility the committee expected the group leaders to take and what authority they had to undertake such tasks and to spend funds. The committee agreed to formulate a clear set of guidelines that spelled out what each group was responsible for and what level of authority the Group Leaders could exercise, and to look at the need to alter the constitution if that was the only way to settle the matter. General agreement was reached that to go back to the days of the very large committee would be a retrograde step.

Malcolm Dean has formulated a set of guidelines for the club to pursue if it intends to provide the opportunity for members to receive computer training. This was tabled at the joint meeting in February and was roundly criticised by some group leaders as being unnecessary. Their opinion was that we are a woodworking club and why should we bother with computers? It's easy to write off such opinions as being the rumblings of dinosaurs, but then again, if that is a view shared by members, then the committee is only too happy to not have to undertake the organisation required to set up computer training. We await feedback from members before proceeding any further.

Finally, as a club we were very sorry to hear that Alice and Herbert Gmehling lost their home in the recent devastating bushfires. The only thing left standing was the workshop, so that is some consolation, although various pieces of woodworking equipment succumbed to the heat. Herbert lost many of his precious carvings that were in the house. The carvers are organising some specific help and the club in general will also participate once the couple's main needs become better established.

Kevin McCarthy

March 2009

## CLUB MEMBER LOSES HOME IN BUSH FIRES

Herbert and Alice Gmehling, lost their house in the Kinglake fires. Herbert and his wife Alice have lived at Toolangi since he retired 7 or 8 years ago. On the night of black Saturday they suddenly realized the fire was very close and coming their way and they decided to leave. They grabbed what they could and set off for Melbourne. While they arrived safe and sound it was a very anxious trip.

Last week end (14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>) they, together with their families went to see what was left. It was a very emotional time.

Their house and large out building are completely destroyed. They could only find a few small mementoes from the ashes of the house. The only building still standing is Herbert's small carving work shop. So he still has his new Triton Jaws, all of his chisels and gouges and his Dremel.

His carving timber, circular saw, band saw and mini-grinder have been destroyed.

On the Saturday of the fire he took the piece he was working on into the house because it was so hot, and now it's gone as well. They did manage to save a number of his carvings including the Angel he won best piece of wood work at the Royal Melbourne Show in 2007.

They are looking forward to coming to the Carve-in in May.

### \*\*\*\*\*WE CAN HELP\*\*\*\*\*

Last week I sent an email to our wood carvers telling them of Herbert's situation and asking if they could help with a donation of tools. I have received a number of very generous offers.

If anyone has a bench saw, a band saw or mini grinder they could donate please let me know.

Bruce has suggested at our March club night (Tuesday 3rd at 7pm) ,we send the hat around so we can buy some wood work equipment for Herbert.

As he is a member of our club, I think it would be great to support Herbert as much as possible in helping him get re established.

Hope to see you all there.

Bryan Thompson (03) 9459 4176

## AUSTRALIA DAY

The annual Australia Day bird box initiative was very successful again this year. Around 35 members, recruited by Bruce Hensell, attended at different times of the day, and around \$350 was raised by sales of items produced by members. Together with the funds provided by the RACV for the birdboxes, this will total around \$1,550. The result is equivalent to last year's effort and is a credit to all. We have already received an email from the Brugman family whose two children survived the ministrations of helpful members and enjoyed belting a box into shape. They even included a couple of happy snaps to illustrate the excitement of the moment.



A very satisfying result for those who attended and helped. As always, many hands make light work, or is that "birdbox".

Before the first newsletter is circulated in February we hope to have our computer whizzes compile a questionnaire to be included in the newsletter to determine what level of computer training the majority of members want. We don't want to overdo the technicalities, but at the same time we regard it as important that if we are going to do this training, it should be helpful and relevant to members so that we don't waste their time and also Malcolm's time which he has generously offered to the cause.

Cheers

Kevin McCarthy President



## A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

Woodcraft Manningham invites you to attend an Open Day which will include:

**A SWAP-MEET Woodwork and Timber Auction.** This is an opportunity for members of local woodworking clubs to sell equipment or timber that is surplus to their needs and buy those items that you may have been looking for at just the right price.

**A variety of woodworking demonstrations.** Prior to the auction various members of Woodcraft Manningham will demonstrate a variety of woodworking techniques - giving everyone a change to observe and ask the demonstrators questions.

**A Sausage Sizzle** – will be provided, or if you prefer, bring your own lunch.

This is a chance for a great day out, to meet woodworkers from various clubs in the region and talk about your latest woodworking project.

WHEN

**Saturday May 23<sup>rd</sup>. 2009 starting at 10am**

WHERE

The Clubrooms, Woodcraft Manningham

The Old School Building  
Manningham - Templestowe  
Leisure Centre  
Cnr. Anderson and Parker Street  
Templestowe 3106

Further information including details of the auction will be provided in the next leaflet.



PHOTO AT LEFT WAS TAKE BY ONE OF YEN IP'S SONS ALEX. AS BOTH HIS TWO SONS WERE DOING THE HONORABLY TASK OF FIGHTING THE BLACK SATURDAY FIRES.

The link is

[www.abc.net.au/news/photos/2009/02/11/2488163.htm](http://www.abc.net.au/news/photos/2009/02/11/2488163.htm)

Additional images can be obtained at

[www.abc.net.au/news/photos/2009/02/10/2486857.htm](http://www.abc.net.au/news/photos/2009/02/10/2486857.htm)

## **SPONSORSHIP OF PRIZES AT THE ROYAL SHOW**

For several recent years, members of the club have been exhibiting their carvings in the Royal Show. Numbers of entries have varied from year to year but the general trend has been an increase in interest. This year there were some turned items entered, which won prizes in that section as well. Up till now there has been no cash prize on offer for wood carving or wood turning, the prize being a certificate and a ribbon as has been traditional for many years.

This year at the Royal Show there will be worthwhile prizes on offer for woodcarving, woodturning and box making (which this year will be entered in the class for article of woodwork). The sponsored prize money of \$75 for first, \$50 for second and \$25 for Third has been authorised by the Committee. This initiative is seen as a way of encouraging members to exhibit their work, to submit their work to independent judging, to promote the club activities to a large and interested section of the wider public and possibly attract enquiries from prospective new members.

Entries for the Show have to be submitted in July and the fee is about \$9, while the articles themselves have to be ready for delivery to the showgrounds in September.

Members are asked to plan what articles they have made in the last 2 years that might be entered in any of the classes

More information will be circulated as that July deadline approaches.

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

### **Warrantdyte Festival 21-22 March 2009**

The club has been an annual participant at this festival, demonstrating on site and attracting enquiries from prospective new members. There is a roster on the notice board for you to volunteer an hour or two to help man the stall. Direct enquiries to Alan Way.

### **Open Workshop**

An extra opportunity for any member to utilize the club facilities will be available on third Thursday mornings, starting in February. If you need to finish a project, make a new piece because you have made a mistake, use a machine for which you are authorized, need an extra pair of hands to hold something, look up a reference in the library,..... here is another chance.

## **WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS**

Recent new members are David Peebles who has joined the Manningham Turners group and John Anter who is now a Day Turner. Welcome to you both, and we hope you enjoy the activities and the company.

## **WOODCRAFT MANNINGHAM** **OPEN WORKSHOP**

The Committee has authorized the opening of the clubrooms for all members on the third Thursday of each month from February 2009, from 9.30 am to 12.30 pm.

Under this arrangement normal club rules apply:

1. Any member of Woodcraft Manningham can utilise the facilities of the club and any machinery and equipment for which they are accredited, so long as they are not alone on the premises.
2. It is each member's responsibility to ensure their name is on the accreditation list for any machine they wish to use.
3. Only hobby projects are approved. No commercial production is to be entered into.
4. Each member is to supply all timber and other materials required.
5. No second hand timber is to be machined.
6. Normal rules for signing in, 50c tea/coffee etc. apply.
7. Each member cleans up his/her own waste.

N.B No instruction in the use of equipment will be available.

Manual help for two-person operations will be available.

Dates for the initial trial of Open Workshop will be:

19 February    19 March    16 April    18 June



## **OVER DUE LIBRARY BOOKS**

The library is there for everyone's use, so if you have a library book which you've had for some time now would be a good time to return it so as to give a chance to other people to borrow it too.

## Wooden Boat Festival Hobart



Club members and friends had a great time at the festival where over five hundred and fifty wooden boats of all shapes and sizes were moored at Constitution Dock. Included in the array of vessels were the tall ships James Craig and Enterprize. A model boat display showed off amazing skills of the makers.

All seventeen in our group gathered for a great night at Mures Fish Restaurant on Saturday night and we all crossed paths many times during the four day event.

There were many demonstrations working timber and application of finishes, as well as information on veneers, so plenty of interest for all woodworkers.

The event is held each two years in Hobart early February – plan to be there and have a great time.

Don McLean

(Read an inspired poem by Ann Brown on page 9)

## Dayturners Report – February 2009

Welcome back to another year of woodturning. Before we look at the New Year, just before Christmas, on our day turners passed away. George (Govert) Rivers, died on Monday 15 December 2008 and the funeral service was held at Heighfield Road Uniting Church Canterbury on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> Dec at 2.00pm. Quite a number of day turners were present at the funeral.

George had been a member for around 9 years. He loved to make chess sets, including the chess boards, as well as bowls from King Billy pine. He will be missed.

This year started with the Australia Day effort and a number of Day turners helped out. It was good to see them using tools other than gouges. This year I would like to highlight some of the work that is done by our turners. Herb Hardidge has been concentrating on segmented turning. This photo shows the before and after of a bud vase which Herb made for his daughter. Herb would like to thank Reg Orr for his inspiration and assistance.

Slav Bojczuk

See photos on page 9

## Salvation

'The Admiral', a 24 foot rowing ferry was about to be burnt  
Abandoned on a Mitchell Island farm, until a gentleman learnt  
Of the location and bought it at auction for one dollar only  
Then returned it to Hobart, knowing it was not a phoney.  
He has restored the vessel, made of Huon pine to its former glory  
Just like it was when it was built by James Dillon, according to story  
In 1865 to carry passengers along the Derwent,  
It is a utility vessel but still very elegant.  
The boat stands today strong and proud  
Thankful for the new lease of life it has been allowed.

Ann Brown



ABOVE A PHOTO OF GEORGE RIVERS AT ONE OF THE CLUBS CHRISTMAS PARTIES



LEFT, THE BEFORE AND AFTER SHOT OF A SEGMENTED VASE BY HERB HARDIDGE. WHICH WAS INSPIRED BY REG ORR.

## WOODTURNERS WAFFLE

This is my first Waffle for 2009, a bit hard to say too much. I missed the first Central meeting in January, completely forgot. Six weeks of work and club meeting is too long.

The 19<sup>th</sup> of February visit from Maroondah will be a good night as usual.

Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> February – off to Robbo's again.

March 19<sup>th</sup> - the activity will be tool sharpening and looking at the new club bowl saving tool. Also on the night we will be selling off the old woodturning tools. Anybody wishing to purchase these come along on the night and bring some cash. Members of other groups are welcome to attend our activity, ring me after hours.

The next activity for the Central group will be decided at the March meeting.

### **All members of Woodcraft Manningham**

For those who went to the last general meeting would know that a widowed friend of Derek Borrell donated lots of stains and other things. I received the material for French polishing some of which I would like to use in a club activity.

I thought I would do a one day Introduction to French Polishing as we don't have the numbers to do a five week course. I did have a few names but I would like anybody who is interested to book by ringing me after hours.

This one day will be enough to give you a start and we may need to do another day later. Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> April 8.30am – 3pm. A list of requirements will be in the next newsletter.

There will be a small charge to cover the rest of the material of \$15 for the day. Tea, coffee and biscuits supplied, bring your own lunch. This workshop is open to anyone who would like to come.

I would like to thank Mrs. Maggie Ezzy for donating the polish, we will put it to good use.

Charlie Chamberlain 9728 2179