

# NEWS

# Woodcraft Matters

Woodcraft Manningham  
Members' Newsletter

## Club elects new president

*Our last AGM saw a number of changes in our office bearers and Committee of Management. Certainly the most significant of these was the election of Kevin McCarthy to the President's role. This is a role that has a long history of distinguished service and we are confident that Kevin will continue to lead us forward and help us to maintain our position as Australia's pre-eminent woodworking club. Here are a few introductory words fresh from the president's desk.*

Well, wooden you know it? Just as I was enjoying a leisurely retirement, I've suddenly got a job. President of Woodcraft Manningham. Blimey! I'm determined to give it my best shot, and hope to see the club prosper in the year ahead.



Kevin McCarthy, new  
Woodcraft Manningham President

As I said on the night of the AGM, it is only since the advent of the monthly club meetings that I have begun to meet people outside the turning and box making groups that I have belonged to since

joining the club. I'm sure this is true for many members. Finally, the club is more than just the sum of its parts and Woodcraft Manningham is assuming a cohesive, inclusive feel as we all applaud each other's masterpieces in the show and tell segment, and begin to appreciate the breadth of talent that we have in the club.

Not only woodworking talent, but people of many diverse backgrounds, with either extensive trade qualifications and years of experience in teaching those trades, or professionals from medical, engineering, accounting, or commercial administration fields. We also have a core of people who

have successfully run their own businesses. We are capable of great things when we harness these many talents.

I also picked up in the foyer at the AGM a copy of the revised Member Information booklet. It is a mine of information, covering the aims of the club, details of equipment use, safety precautions and reminders on housekeeping within the clubhouse, as well as out reach activities such as training sessions. There was a copy printed for every member, so please make sure you pick up yours. Reading through this booklet, I realised that it forms the perfect basis to test whether members believe that the club is currently meeting their expectations.

I am a great believer in the adage that if you can't measure it, you can't manage it. The only way I know to measure results is to test, using a questionnaire. I have drawn up such a questionnaire using a quick format to make it easy to complete (It's on Page 6). I do ask sincerely that every club member complete this and return it to your group leader at your next group night, post or return to me. Please attach your name, because some of your answers will lead to further discussions with individuals to flesh out your suggestions. I have also included a list of activities the club could conceivably undertake, if there is member support or a perceived need.

Over the six years or so that I have been a

## CALENDAR

Club Monthly Meeting  
7pm Tuesday August 5

Guillio Marcolongo Wood Turning Demo  
At Club Sunday August 10

Woodcraft Matters  
Copy deadline Monday August 18

Club Machine Training & Accreditation  
Saturday October 4

Melbourne Timber & Working with  
Wood Show October 24-26

Advanced Netsuke Course  
At Club October 25 - 26

Turn On' Phillip Island  
September 12-14

Box Making Course  
At club Commences September 15

Australian Wooden Boat Festival  
Tasmania February 6-9 '09

member of the club, I have seen numerous new members arrive, spend a few nights and then disappear for ever. What went wrong? Do we know, either individually or within groups, how we failed these people? Which of their expectations didn't we meet? Were they expecting a more structured, teaching type group experience? For instance, did they expect that every group night they would be handed a project, including materials and a drawing and be shown what to do? Were they disappointed with the reception they received? Did they feel inadequate? Was the age group wrong? (Many of these new members were younger than our usual demographic).

Once again, we can only address these issues if we understand the extent and manner of them. I would suggest that gaining new members is our prime aim, and losing them as soon as we win them is catastrophic. Unfortunately, just like bowling clubs,

Continues overleaf on P3

# From the Editor's Desk



Geoff Birtles

Like the President I was adjusting to new retirement when press ganged into the editor's role. Work commitments have finally overcome Gino who has done a sterling job on WoodcraftMatters for more than five years. Thanks Gino.

My column in future issues will be limited to a column, or less. However, this is an opportunity to share my mission and objectives with you.

*A club newsletter (like a business newsletter) conveys a personality that member readers can identify with, or not. It can and should be a statement of pride and energy. It will achieve this through content and presentation.*

*Important objectives include:*

- Pride of association on the part of members, associated clubs and the trade.
- A much anticipated source of news, happenings, workshop and work practice tips.
- People news and photos.
- Trade and Event news.
- Support and sponsorship from the trade.

These objectives can only be met if members, and in particular Group Leaders, are involved in contributions. If there are no contributions we cannot come close to achieving any of these objectives.

The alternative is that the product becomes the full time hobby/vehicle of the newsletter editor who writes all the articles, takes all the photos, does the design/layout and so on... then suddenly it's not a club newsletter at all. This is not how I plan to do it.

I will need your help to make it your newsletter. My enthusiasm, professional input and ongoing involvement will directly

relate to enthusiastic support by way of written contributions and news submitted prior to the monthly deadline (third Monday of each month).

Please submit your material as emails or emails with digital file attachments (Word or InDesign) preferably with photos separated. Do not send formatted material. A second resort is a typed and mailed manuscript (that I will try to OCR scan and turn into a digital document). I do not see myself as a first call typist or roving reporter! Happy to edit and make copy changes. Photos speak louder than words, I have Photoshop skills and can edit/improve your pics. Try to keep the resolution (DPI) up.

I look forward with working with you all, so that together we can develop a really good product!

**Geoff Birtles** [gbirtles@bigpond.net.au](mailto:gbirtles@bigpond.net.au)

## Profile

**Our new President reveals all.**

I was born in Moonee Ponds in 1944, and we moved to Pascoe Vale South in 1948. There I lived in the same short street as Bryan Thompson for a scant twenty one years without us tripping over each other as far as I recall. I was also just across the park from where John & Judy Wheeler have lived for thirty eight years. Small world! Being an only child I found to be a mixed blessing, but it meant that whatever education

opportunities were available, were focused on me, so I was fortunate enough to get a good grounding in Christian Brothers' colleges and entered Melbourne University in 1963 to study Mechanical Engineering.

While at University I edited the Engineering Students magazine "Cranks and Nuts" and took up serious photography. During my teen years, I was a scout, eventually becoming a Queen's Scout, then scoutmaster at 10th Brunswick Troop, as well as running a youth club in the city and a photographic club at the Department of Works. This all kept me pretty busy, especially as I photographed babies, weddings, catalogues or anything to make some money while studying.

Work wise, after a few years at the Commonwealth Department of Works, much of which I spent on the design of

## Woodcraft Manningham

Incorporated Association 0034137X

PO Box 567 Templestowe 3106

The Old School Building  
Manningham - Templestowe Leisure Centre  
Corner Anderson & Parker Streets  
Templestowe Melway P33, E5

Club Phone 9846 8148

### COMMITTEE

President	Kevin McCarthy 9852 3879
Vice President	Bruce Hensell 0419 519 191
Secretary	Brian Luders 9897 1482
Treasurer	Neil Wakeman 9841 7773
Communication & Promotion	Geoff Birtles 9846 6221 0412 360 510
Training	Charlie Chamberlain 9728 2179
Members	Stuart Watson 9886 1893 Alan Way 9459 9049
Web Master	Malcolm Dean 94898406

Tullamarine airport mechanical services, I joined Ingersoll Rand where I became Victorian/Tasmanian manager. After nine years I left and set up Air Supply, selling and servicing air compressors.

In 1969 I married Joan Penry and we settled in Doncaster East. We proceeded to have four kids in short order, and that put paid to any extra curricular activities. Even more onerous, once I set up my own business in 1977 that kept me very busy until 2006 when I sold it and retired. With all four offspring married, we now have four grand kids and are pretty taken up with the usual round of child minding.

I joined Woodcraft Manningham in 2002 to try my hand at wood turning in Rob McNamara's group. Tiring of making round fire wood and having a lasting hatred of my skew chisel, I changed to box making a couple of years ago, joining Reg Orr's group and I am greatly enjoying turning out little boxes rather than little rips and tears. Much more relaxing.

**Kevin McCarthy**

# Committee Notes

## Synopsis June Meeting 2008

- New sanding machine is working.
- Club room keys Efforts are still being made to establish who has keys.
- Training Day Charlie will organize days when all lists have been submitted. Training will probably take place after September.
- Turning Demo Day Giulio Marcolongo has agreed to demonstrate on Sunday August 10 , 9.00a.m. to 4..30 pm We already filled twenty of the thirty places.
- Mitre saw Dust extraction connection. Saad Saad will be asked to organize
- Vacuum cleaner attachments Judy reported that replacement wand & head for the Trade Torque Cleaner will cost \$150. It was felt that it would be better to buy another vac. John will get prices on a suitable machine around \$200
- Exhaust fans Bryan to organize
- Lathes Remind members to open chutes on lathes. Tailstocks should not be pushed in
- Thicknesser Blocked up again.
- Cleaning Alan Way's Group are to do the next clean.
- Gas Heater The gas heater in the front room had been left on over the long weekend - better if it was not used.
- Bird Boxes It was decided that we should collect the timber for the bird boxes soon.
- Sale of Wood Ken sold donated wood and raised \$100. Bryan also sold \$300 wood for the club.

# Club Fees Due

Although there has been a terrific response from members so far, there's still quite a few members who haven't yet paid their membership and group fees for 2008/9. The Treasurer's job is not an easy one and the Committee would therefore appreciate it if you could send him your membership fees within the next week or so, certainly by the end of this month, when we'd like to have the whole deal 'wrapped up' for this year.

In case you have mislaid your re-enrolment form, contact the Treasurer (Neil Wakeman 9841 7773), or better still, access the attachment to your June newsletter!

If you have decided not to renew your membership for 2008/9 (and we hope that's not the case) we'd appreciate your advice to this effect, and we'll arrange for your name to be deleted from Club records.



## Thanks Gino!

**Gino Centofanti takes a break after five years as editor of our club newsletter. Gino's first edition was in September of 2003.**

In April 1999 the Victorian Woodwork festival was held at our club rooms and surrounding buildings at Templestowe. One of our major sponsors was Triton tools and Gino Centofanti came to the festival as a demonstrator for Triton. Gino was so impressed with the friendliness of the members from our club and our great facilities he decided to join us. At that time we only had two types of woodwork, turning and carving. Gino joined the turners.

Gino has long been a member willing to help when and where he has been able. When our first editor Mal Carlson made a "C" change and went to live at St. Leonard, Gino volunteered to be our editor. While there is always room for improvement, our news letter under Gino is one of the largest and one of the most informative that I have seen.

While Gino's growing family has needed more and more time he has still found time to help with maintenance of some of our machines and the monthly deadline of the newsletter. Manningham Woodcraft is much the richer for the effort Gino has put into the club.

Gino is taking a rest from our club for the next 12 months. We hope when he returns he will be able to have time to enjoy working with timber instead of organizing our machinery and newsletter.

*Bryan Thompson*

### New President's Message Continued from Page 1

we have a fairly high drop off rate due to eyesight failure, arthritic fingers, dicky knees, bad backs etc. We need to recruit constantly just to stay still. Your thoughts and observations on this issue would also be appreciated.

Finally, I am anxious that despite the rash of initiatives we don't lose sight of the main game. We must maintain the level of activity and output the club already enjoys, it's participation in many local and regional shows and assistance in running some of them. Onward and upward.

*Kevin McCarthy, President*

## A tip for readers

**If you get this newsletter by email and print it, your printing software will (by default) print to "ft to page".**

**Type will be small because printed page size (inclusive of white borders) has been reduced to fit within your printers less than A4 printable area. Change your default to "print actual size".**

**Text font size is a generous 10 points with 12point leading.**

# BUSY WINTER

## ••• AT THE WORKSHOP

On the four occasions I have been along to the old school this winter there have always been numbers of woodies milling around.

Firstly on Tuesday Club night in June there was a good turnout to witness Geoff Birtles demonstrate and talk about his remarkable router table on castors which he has developed over the years and which has recently featured in The Australian Woodworker. It came fully equipped for



### Profile

**Bruce Hensell - Vice President**

I have lived in Kew and North Balwyn all my life having attended Carey and Scotch College finishing education at RMIT doing Mechanical and Production Engineering.

I started in the family business in 1956 making Henselite Lawn Bowls and equipment allied to the sport. I was involved in building the first successful synthetic bowling green in Australia. Initially I was designing and making new automated machinery for manufacturing, taking over Management from my late father in 1977.

Today we supply about 75% of the world market of Bowls.

My two sons, now the fourth generation, are in charge which allows me to enjoy my interests of cycling, motor bike riding, 4WD driving and of recent times wood work and the fellowship of our club.

I feel we have a great club with huge potential and I am happy to do my share to help it reach those goals.

every possible job as a router and Geoff told of its many other functions in his home workshop.

Once again Bruce chaired the meeting which brought all present up-to-date with Club activities. Some worthy pieces featured

in the Show and Tell including a few made at the recent May Carve-In and an intarsia Fisherman and Bass [now in the showcase] by Greg Williams.

On Friday morning that same week the carving session started with most of the regulars self starting on their chosen bits, then visitors Merle and Ian [recent attendees at the Carve-In] came all the way from Mt. Martha with a mission to acquire some of the fine carving Queensland beech in the foyer. It was also good to see Ken Barker back for a visit and Secretary Brian was also there to catch up on what members were up to.

Bryan Thompson hinted that at 11am we could expect more visitors to examine how we spent our time and sure enough 10 woodies from the Berwick Club arrived for morning tea.

In welcoming them Bryan took the opportunity to present Keith Towe, an original driving force in the old Central Woodworker days, with a Many Happy Returns gift which turned out to be a sturdy stump that Keith had apparently gifted to Bryan some 30 years ago. In reply we learnt that the Berwick boys do everything else but carving including turning, clock making and boxes and some of their best boxes were in fact on display at Show and Tell time.

They then wandered around expressing great interest in the equipment available and the variety of projects on the go before tucking into a sandwich lunch and to take in some of Ken Morrison's box making class in the afternoon.

The next sizeable gathering with about 40 attendees was July Club night and also the Annual General Meeting. All were pleased to welcome Kevin McCarthy as new President, especially Charlie who earned a vote of thanks for holding the fort for the last six months. Treasurer Neil Wakeman gave a good account on the state of the Club's finances before the election of the committee, which evoked some lively discussion.

The guest speaker for that evening was Stuart Hoxley, Senior Educator Building and Transport at Swinburne University, and incidentally also Charlie's boss, who gave a very thought provoking talk on the current training of apprentices in the building trades.

There was quite a bit of feedback discussion on the old ways of training and the turnabout in Government thinking now more evident. Charles Castle thanked Stuart and made the usual presentation.

For Show and Tell Yen produced a pair of carved book ends from silky oak and Ian Dunnet a well painted circular saw blade proving there is no end to the hidden talents in the Club.

The final occasion was the first Friday in July carving session where 17 were in attendance to learn from ex tradesman and teacher Bryan Thompson, the finer points to sharpening woodworking tools. Starting with the straight blade from a plane Bryan demonstrated the correct angle and stones to use to sharpen the edge and remove the burr before showing similar techniques for chisels and gouges finishing off with a final leather stropping. Most of the hobbyists present admitted they didn't sharpen as often as they should and attempted there and then to put into practice what the master had taught but with varying degrees of success.

*Bruce Hensell*

### Media Watch

Check out this site – once you're a member (it's free) they give you access to their newsletters which usually have some good articles about tools and things.

Neil Wakeman

[www.timbecon.com.au/](http://www.timbecon.com.au/) -

## Monthly General Meeting

7pm Tuesday August 5  
Clubrooms

Manningham Templestowe Leisure Centre

The speaker and topic is not confirmed at time of press. We expect it to be one of two presenters on the new Festo Domino system and Kapex Mitre Saw. These are exciting state-of-the-art power tools with many applications for all woodworkers.

### Applewood

**Pippa, from Brunswick, has phoned the club to say she has a significant quantity of freshly felled Applewood. Not sure if its free, or a small donation is required. Interested members should phone her direct.**

**93876594 0408362792**

# Woodturners Waffle



A Don McClean pic

Charlie Chamberlain - teacher and mentor.

Congratulations to the new President, Kevin McCarthy, Vice President Bruce Hensell and Newsletter Editor, Geoff Birtles.

I have personally thanked Gino for his help over the years with the newsletter. The Central Group relies on the newsletter to let the members know what is going on with our group.

There are five places left for Guilio's demonstration day, booking details are in last months newsletter.

The Training Day is to be Saturday 4th October 2008. Training on all equipment will be carried out on this day with five trainers. Times and more details will be in a future newsletter.

August 21st activity will be hollow form, it is possible to use some tree wood this time - 250mm long x 150 diameter.

Charlie Chamberlain

## A CARVER'S LOT MAY NOT BE A HAPPY ONE

By: Ian McLaughlin

The following is a quote from 'Grindling Gibbons and the Art of Carving' by David Esterly - p. 204. Gibbons was a 17th Century master of the craft.

"A carver begins as a god and ends as a slave. With vicious tools, he starts by imposing his will on an undefiled and passive board. As the carving progresses, however, the balance of power shifts. Forms emerge and gather their own potency. Soon the carving begins to make suggestions to the carver; then it makes demands; finally it becomes a pitiless taskmaster, commanding now this, now that detail. The carving is finished when the carver finally loses patience with such thralldom, and removes the carving from the workbench."

So, when non-carver members of our club observe carver-members looking frustrated and perplexed, they will know why !!

Member Peter Oppenheim has come up with a top idea to promote the club and raise funds. This could be expanded to a weekend so that we could display members work. The matter has been tabled for the next committee meeting. Further member input to the president or Peter is warmly welcomed. A copy of his emailed suggestion follows. Good one Pete!

## Woodwork Auction

"I think an Annual Woodwork Auction would:

- add to the activities of the club,
- enable members to dispose of surplus equipment and/or timber, and
- provide a potential source of revenue for the club if the Committee decided to retain say 5 to 10% of gross revenue from the auction sale.

The Auction could be conducted on a weekend to allow all members to attend. I suggest June/ July would normally be the best time to conduct the Auction. However this year to see how the idea goes we could hold the Auction towards the end of the year - say October or November - keeping in mind that the Working With Wood Show will be held on October 24 -26th. If the Auction was a success it could be enlarged in future years by inviting members of other clubs to become involved.

I would be happy to work with the Committee to organize and conduct the Auction which would need to be publicised in the Newsletter at least 2 or 3 months prior to the Auction. Timber, Woodworking Equipment, Books etc. to

be auctioned would need to be delivered to the Club rooms prior to the Auction to be catalogued. A complete catalogue of all lots together with reserve prices (if applicable) would be available to members at the time of the auction.

To add to the event it would be nice if it could be combined with a woodworking demonstration prior to the Auction. It would also be nice if afternoon tea would be available for all attendees.

I look forward to hearing about the reaction of the Committee to this idea. My mobile for other interested members is 0414391625."

## Buy, Swap, Sell. Classifieds

### Collectable Tools

- One Companion blow lamp made in Sweden \$30
- Two wooden smoothing planes 8" long x 2" wide \$35 each
- One 2 1/2" x 22" wooden tri plane \$45

GC Charlie 9728 2179

### Huon Pine Slabs

Large and thick  
Various sizes and prices \$200 - \$400E

Geoff 0412 360 510

Woodcraft Matters is an incredibly successful forum to re-home unwanted wood, woodworking tools and machinery.

Email your ad to the editor, include a photo if you wish. Its FREE!  
gbirtles@bigpond.net.au

## CHINA PAINTING Exhibition & Sale

Hand Painted Porcelain by Chris Chamberlain & Students



Friday 1 to Sunday August 31 2008

10 am to 5pm Wednesday to Sunday

### Mont De Lancey

Historic House, Garden & Museum  
Wellington Road, Wandin Melway 121 A1

Demonstrations 11am - 2pm

Friday 1 August

Sunday 10 August

Saturday 23 August

Enquiries 9728 2179

Admission to Museum & Gallery \$5

Licensed French Cafe

Les Chesselles at Mont De Lancey

# Woodcraft Manningham Member Survey

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

**SECTION 1: In your opinion, is the club achieving its specific aims for members?**

(Items (a) to (j) below are as defined in the Members Information Booklet)

Please tick appropriate box

- a) Provide the opportunity for participation in woodcrafting
- b) A meeting place for men & women with an interest in woodcraft
- c) Provision of equipment to be used by accredited members
- d) Maintain a library of books, magazines & videos related to woodcraft
- e) Offer displays, demonstrations and other learning opportunities
- f) Provide practical group meetings for specific disciplines of woodcraft
- g) Provide instruction and accreditation on equipment as required
- h) Encourage social interaction of members
- i) Encourage the exchange of ideas between club members
- j) Foster the development of new programs & groups

POOR	50/50	GOOD

**SECTION 2: Your thoughts on future moves**

Do you think the club needs a social committee (See item (h) above)?

If yes, would you be interested in serving on it?

Do you believe that you have sufficient access to the clubrooms to work?

Do you have an interest in seeing any new groups formed?

If yes, would you prefer any of the following disciplines:- Furniture

Pyrography

Marquetry

Antique restoration

Clock making

Intarsia

**YES      NO**

YES	NO

If none of these appeal, your suggestion is: \_\_\_\_\_

**SECTION 3: Your computer literacy**

Do you have access to a computer?

Do you have an email address? If yes, it is \_\_\_\_\_

Are you competent at sending and receiving emails with attachments?

Do you visit our club website?

Do you know how to submit photos or articles on your work to the website?

Would you like the club to run a basic course on computer use?

**YES      NO**

YES	NO

**SECTION 4: Your ideas on boosting membership**

Do you recruit your acquaintances to join the club?

Do you think we promote the club sufficiently?

Do you have any suggestions on how we should advertise and promote our club?

If yes, please elaborate: \_\_\_\_\_

**YES      NO**

YES	NO

**SECTION 5: Your ideas on fund raising**

Do you support and participate in the bird box promotion on Australia Day?

Do you think the club should sell members' handiwork to raise funds?

Do you have any other fund raising suggestions?

If yes, please elaborate: \_\_\_\_\_

**YES      NO**

YES	NO

Please add any relevant thoughts, suggestions or criticisms on the way the club is running:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Please complete and hand to your Group Leader or Kevin McCarthy at the next club meeting.

If you wish, you may post to the club

Att Kevin McCarthy  
Woodcraft Manningham  
PO Box 567

Templestowe 3106



# Back to Basics

## – Carving

By Bryan Thompson

**Before you make the first cut on a new carving there are eight questions you need to answer!**

1. What you are going to carve?  
(The design)
2. How you are going to mount the carving?
3. How are you going to finish the carving?
4. What timber you are going to use?
5. How you are going to hold the article whilst you are carving it?
6. Do you understand what carving process you are going to use?
7. Are your tools sharp?

### The Design?

- You must have a drawing, a photograph or a model.
- Is the design suitable for carving?  
(Direction of grain.)
- Will design be easily damaged when it is finished?

### How you are going to mount the carving?

If the carving is going to be mounted on a separate base or attached to another object, for example a rock or carving on furniture, you need to know exactly what the carving will be attached to before you start.

It is often necessary to attach the block to be carved to the base before the starting any carving. cabinet makers dry assemble furniture before passing it on to the woodcarver for carving.

### How you are going to finish the carving?

The choices of finish for carvings is the same as for turning and box making other types of woodwork. However wood carving has one type of finish not usually available to other types of woodwork - a tooled finish. This is a carving where the carving tool marks are deliberately left and is usually the case with whittling.

When the English carver Ian Norbury produces a carving with a tooled finish



*Ken Reid's very fine owl*

he will complete the carving as he would for a sanded finish and then go over the carving again with a gouge reworking the whole of the surface. It takes him as long to produce a tooled finish as a sanded finish.

### What timber you are going to use?

Can you find a timber that complements the design? The more detailed the design the plainer the timber.

If you want to carve have a piece of timber with a lot of different colour and movement then choose a very simple design.

Beginners should use softer even grained timbers and keep clear of Pine, Oregon, Red gum, Jarrah, Vic Ash and burls.

### How will you hold the carving?

It is essential that the carving is held securely during carving for the three reasons:

#### Safety

To help prevent making a wrong cut.

The more firmly the carving is held the better the cut.

#### Relief carvings

Relief carvings need to be placed in a frame or screwed to a larger piece of timber.

#### Carving in the round

Additional timber needs to be left on the base of the carving so it can be held in a vice or by a carvers screw. If the carving is

to be held on a metal carving stand the additional base needs to be large enough to ensure the tools can not accidentally touch the metal stand whilst carving.

#### Whittling

Small carvings can often be held by hand, however it is sometimes very useful to have additional timber so it can be held in a small vice practically when using a Dremal type M/C. Remember all whittlers wear scars to show for their efforts, not recommended but it happens when you least expect it.

### What carving process are you going to use?

While the tools required will vary depending on the type of carving the process is always the same.

#### • Templates.

Will it save time if you made some templates or a model?

#### • Blanking out.

What is the quickest way to blank out the carving?

#### • Roughing out.

What is the best tool/s to rough out the carving?

#### • Refining.

Do you have the right tools to refine the design this is particularly important for repetitious furniture carving?

#### • Detailing.

Do you require any special tools or materials for detailing?

#### • Finishing.

Remember don't sand until you have finished carving and don't carve after you have started sanding. If you do you will take the edge of your tools.

### Are your tools sharp?

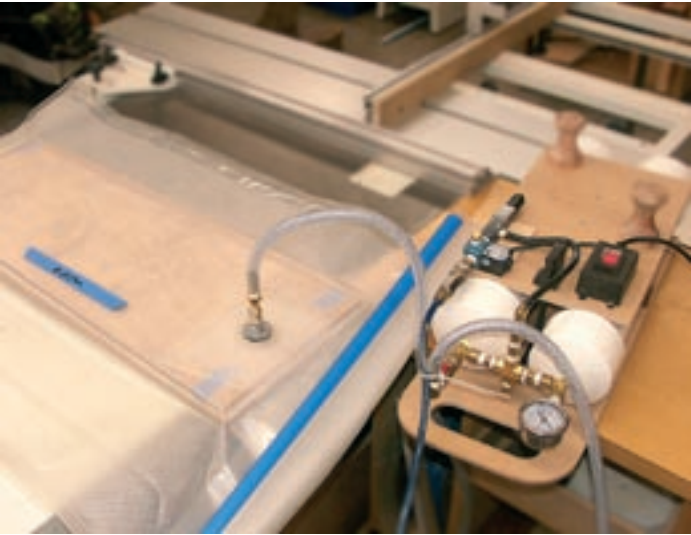
Remember, if you haven't the right tool please ask because the club has a lot of tools to chose from.

Check the sharpness of your tools before you start. You will do a better job, its safer and you will enjoy it more.

### Happy carving!

# Box makers get atmospheric

Box makers were treated to a demonstration of how to utilise the atmosphere for veneering, at Reg Orr's third Tuesday box makers' night last month. Geoff Birtles brought along his home built vacuum veneering press. Great interest was displayed, as many members and guests provided the biggest turn up this year.



Geoff first talked us through some schematic charts, showing how compressed air, from a shop compressor, is fed through a simple *venturi* nozzle to create a strong suction behind the exiting air. This produces a vacuum, which in turn draws air from a large plastic bag containing veneer/substrate (sandwich) panels for glue up.

The vacuum achieved is up to 28 inches of mercury which means that atmospheric pressure, at 15psi, flattens the bag and presses the veneer flat against the substrate to which it is being attached. The unit incorporates pressure sensing devices, and solenoids to control the flow of compressed

air - a compact, simple and effective device with many applications in the furniture industry.

Geoff had invited members to bring their own materials to to illustrate how powerful the press is, in practice. For those who had forgotten, Reg thoughtfully provided some panels and veneer pieces. Over a

dozen panels were veneered simultaneously in the press, showing just how powerful the atmosphere is, and how efficient the system can be for small or volume box veneering and large furniture pieces including curved work.

It also illustrated another important work practice. Do not use too much glue! Once the vacuum was released and the nicely flat veneered panels admired, a number of helpers spent considerable time helping Geoff to rid

the plastic bag and inner breather mesh of great globs of PVA glue, squeezed out of the many veneered panels. Altogether a very instructive night.

The great success of this demonstration, together with a recent visit to the box makers' night by a self-taught luthier who showed us the basics of guitar making, shows that members do appreciate this sort of instructive session.

We look forward to many more entertaining nights from our talented members and guest speakers, as we continue to broaden our knowledge and skills.

*Kevin McCarthy*

A warm thank you to our contributors: Kevin McCarthy, Bryan Thompson, Charlie Chamberlain, Bruce Hensell, Judy Wheeler, Brian Luders and Peter Oppenheim.

We will need more contributors for the next issue if we are to fully represent each group and to further develop the depth and interest of this publication. Frankly, I am surprised that some more group leaders did not represent their group following my solicitations for contributions. It kind of hasn't mattered with this issue, following so many changes, but it will impact on the next and further issues.

Finally, if Woodcraft Matters goes forward, we may well get turners to read box making articles, carvers to read turning articles, and turners to read box making articles, it could happen! We can also use it to seek trade support and sponsorship. This space may well be occupied by a financially supporting sponsor's logo soon, who knows!!

*Geoff Birtles, Editor [gbirtles@bigpond.net.au](mailto:gbirtles@bigpond.net.au)*

## ACTIVITY GROUPS & LEADERS

### WOOD TURNING

#### *Day*

*"Day Turners"*

Every Wednesday 9.00am & 1.00pm  
John Tarry 9842 532

Third Friday each month 1.00pm  
Bryan Thompson 94594176

#### *"Probus"*

First Monday each month 9.00am  
John Edwards 9848 5875

#### *Evening*

*"Central"*

Third Thursday each month 6.30pm  
Charlie Chamberlain 9728 2179

*"Templestowe"*

First Thursday each month 6.30pm  
Stuart Watson 9886 1893

*"Manningham"*

Fourth Thursday each month 6.30pm  
Allan Way 9459 9049

*"Ladies"*

Second Tuesday each month 6.30pm  
Judy Wheeler 9386 1230

### BOX MAKING

#### *Day*

• First Friday each month 1.00pm  
Ken Morrison 9723 5030

• Third Friday each month 1.00pm  
Ken Morrison 9723 5030

#### *Evening*

• Third Tuesday each month 6.30pm  
Reg Orr 9857 6058

• Third Wednesday each month 6.30pm  
Reg Orr 9857 6058

### CARVING

• First Friday each month 9.00am  
Ken Morrison 9723 5030

• Second Friday each month 9.00am  
Pat Burder 9857 6107

• Third Friday each month 9.00am  
Ken Morrison 9723 5030

• Fourth Friday each month 9.00am  
Bryan Thompson 9459 4176

### SCROLL SAWING

• Fourth Friday each month 1.00pm  
Robert Murphy 9842 7060

*New members welcome!*

Please contact any one of the group Leaders listed above.

## The last word ...

A new newsletter is a great challenge logistically. I have to thank Neil Wakeman, our treasurer and a box maker, for his extra-ordinary help. He helped me get information and provide some order to our committee and group contacts for the Newsletter (page 2 and back page, green side bars). Along the way he set up a superb XL spread sheet of all members which assisted me with a current email and postage list. This (confidential) spread sheet has sorting/selection cells for all members by group affiliation, contact info, financial status and a list of member emergency numbers.

The fringe of all of this, is that group leaders will have a current list of their participating members along with emergency contacts. Neil also, along with Kevin McCarthy, proof read the document, something (amongst other talents) that he is very good at. Any mistakes and errors you see here will be mine following proofing of the first draft. Thank you also to Bruce Hensell for printing and postage which he generously continues to donate to the club.