

MAY 2005

WOODCRAFT MATTERS

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Lady Turners

Anne Schaffer 9844 2072

Doncaster Carvers

Bryan Thompson 9459 4176

Doncaster Daycarvers – 1

Greg Williams 9723 3827

Doncaster Daycarvers – 2

Greg Williams 9723 3827

Doncaster Daycarvers – 3

Greg Williams 9723 3827

Box Making Evening Sessions

Reg Orr 98576058

Box Making Afternoon Sessions

Ken Morrison 97235030

Remember

If you miss your normal meeting you are welcome to do a "make up" by attending another group that month. Just give the group leader a call to let them know you will be coming along.

**Active membership is the lifeblood of this club.
Have you brought a new member to the club
yet?**

FROM ONE OF THE PRESIDENTS MEN

I have chaired the second committee meeting and things seem to be getting sorted out quite well but I am a little concerned about the amount of work being taken on by Stuart with the ladies group and the Templestowe Turners. I would like to ask members of these groups if they could help him. In the Central group I have three other people helping to run activities, which has worked really well for the last six years. It is time some of the members of these groups come forward to help, if it becomes too much for one person and they don't want to do it any more then these groups are in big trouble.

You will soon receive your membership renewals. Please fill them out carefully and return as soon as possible. If you wish to give your fees to the group leader, make sure you fill out the form and if cash, correct money in an envelope.

At the last committee meeting we set the date for the **AGM, 27th July 2005 at 7.00pm** at the clubrooms. All positions become vacant and we need to elect a new committee. Please give thought to taking on a position and we really need someone to step forward as President.

There is a proposal to change the name of our club from Central Woodcraft at Manningham Inc. to Woodcraft Manningham Inc. This will be voted on at the AGM, 27th July 2005. The group names will stay the same. Super will be after the AGM, come along and meet members of other groups.

Charlie Chamberlain

Michael Harvey

Our friend Michael Harvey died on Wednesday (18th May). He wasn't feeling well on Wednesday morning and was admitted to hospital where he died that evening.

Michael had just attended our Carve-in at Bacchus Marsh and had been involved with setting an exhibition for the Peninsular Woodworkers.

Michael joined Manningham Woodcraft after attending the Carving-in 2003 with his friend Meryle Baring. Michael was not only a very good carver he was always give advice when asked and always very friendly. He will be sadly missed by all who knew him.

Bryan Thompson

WOODTURNERS WAFFLE

The May meeting was again well attended. I must say that for a group with about 17 members to have 13 attend a meeting night is very good. The activity was lidded boxes, run by Stuart Watson. I have known Stuart for quite a few years but had never realised he had indigenous blood in him. He must because he went walk about on the night and left the group to their own devices for quite a while but they managed anyway. Next months meeting on the 16th June will be something special, Brian Thompson giving a demonstration - carving on turning. I have found that in the past attending demonstrations by the carvers makes an excellent night. I am looking forward to the night and hope to meet members from other groups.

Charlie Chamberlain

AUSTRALASIAN PORCELAIN ART TEACHERS (VIC.) Inc.

Reg. No. A10109



EXHIBITION AND SALE **HAND PAINTED PORCELAIN, GLASS AND COMPLIMENTARY** **CRAFTS**

Location: Mooroolbark Baptist Church Hall, 153—157 Hull Rd. Mooroolbark

Date: Saturday 9th July 2005 Time: 9:30 am—4:00 pm

Admission: \$10,00 (includes coffee/tea and cake, plus door prize ticket)

Come and browse through an excellent exhibition of hand painted porcelain, glass and complimentary crafts by members of the **Australasian Porcelain Art Teachers (Vic) Inc.**

Each teacher will have her own stand displaying a range of different styles and techniques.

Watch the various artists as they work, and feel free to ask any questions that you may have.

Before leaving enjoy a complimentary cup of coffee/tea and cake, don't forget to place your ticket in the box for the door prize draw.

6 WEEK INTRODUCTION TO BOXMAKING COURSE

- WHO:** All members of other woodworking clubs, as well as Woodcraft Manningham, are welcome
- WHEN:** Monday 7 - 9.30 pm Starting July 4th
- WHERE:** The Old School Building
Manningham Leisure Centre
Cnr. Anderson and Parker St
Templestowe
- COST:** \$65 All materials and tools supplied
- ENQUIRES:** Ken Morrison 97235030

CENTRAL TURNERS

I would like to invite members of other groups to the next Central meeting on the 16th June at 7.00pm. We will have a talk by Brian Thompson on carving on turning. There will be about 15 places available on a first come first served basis. Please ring me after hours if you would like to attend. There will be a \$2 entry fee and you will get super and a ticket in the raffle. Some show and tell would be good, boxes, turning, carving etc. Looking forward to seeing you on the night.

Charlie Chamberlain

DAY CARVERS

The first Friday in May brought together 9 male and one lady carver but our Ronit, besides keeping the males in order, more than held her own in this grouping. Half way through the morning Ken Morrison, as spokesman for the three committee persons present, informed the gathering of items of current concern to the Club including executive vacancies, and diminishing numbers.

Because of his eyesight problem Greg Williams has put aside his chisels for a time but he had not been idle. He produced and demonstrated two expertly constructed home made adjustable mortising jigs, ideal for cabinet or even box making enthusiasts.

On the subject of boxes both Greg and Ken Morrison produced lovely items, Greg's being made from Kiatt [a South African timber] with a spalted Beech lid and Ken's a birds eye Huon Pine with Red Gum corner posts. On the carving front Yen showed off 5 small whittled heads and a miniature Chinese warrior complete with an axe headed lance - his next project could well be the warrior's horse or a self portrait. Noel had completed his open hand which looked definitely masculine. Cyril was working at his sculptured holey form while Barrie and Bruce whittled happily away. Ronit received a lesson on spoke shaving as she rounded out her bark clad female form and Ken Barker finished off another treed scene in poplar for the lid of a box he had made. As usual I made the most noise first on the bandsaw shaping a fish shaped bowl from a roadside pickup piece of firewood then on the sanding machine shaping and smoothing an end of Red Gum which could end up as another sculptured piece.

Derek Borrell

NEW ZEALAND'S UNIQUE TIMBERS

Just as Australia has its family of many different types of Eucalyptus New Zealand, through millions of years of geographic isolation, has 100 known species of conifers called **Podocarps**. These are evergreen trees with linear or awl-shaped leaves and seeding through cones.

After a century of milling of these slow growing trees natural forest sources are rapidly becoming more limited and dwindling timber supplies are highly sought after.

Well known examples of **Podocarps** are:

* **Rimu or Red Pine**, the heartwood of which is one of the world's most beautifully grained timbers and much sought after for furniture, paneling and carving.

* **Matai** is a straight grained, gold coloured wood sometimes called the Kauri of the South Island. It finishes to a higher lustre than most timbers and is regarded as a better furniture and craft timber.

* **Kahikatea or White Pine** is the tallest of NZ native trees, specimens up to 60m having been recorded. The timber which is soft, is a pale yellow colour with no smell. For this reason it was used for butter boxes and cheese crates. Small quantities are still used by the craft market for turnery, carvings and cutting boards.

* **Totara** is a majestic red timbered giant of the NZ forest much revered by the Maori for its carving quality and durability. They used it with elaborate carving with primitive tools for canoes, whares [houses] and boxes. Europeans valued it for fence posts, telegraph poles and house piles.

The other well renowned NZ tree which is not in the Podocarp family is, of course, **Kauri**. Through early exploitation of this most useful all-round timber only a few hectares of the vast northern forests of Kauri remain and the few giant specimens have become tourist attractions. One famous tree is 51 metres tall and 4.4 metres in diameter 5 metres from the ground and estimated as 2000 years old. In Maori times the great ocean-going war canoes with their intricately carved prows and sternposts were the ultimate symbols of tribal authority. Kauri and Totara were the two most favoured timbers for these magnificent craft. In the 19th century Kauri masts and spars were keenly sought by the British Navy. In the fledgling colony it was employed in all sorts of building construction and became a valuable item of trade especially with Australia and Britain.

As any tourist to NZ will confirm Polynesian carving is still very much to the fore in timber, whale-bone and Paua shell and there are many places where you can watch carvers, mostly Maori, at work. In the shopping centres and in many little country towns turned bowls in beautiful native timbers are a joy to behold.

Derek Borrell April 2005

CLUB NOMINATION FORM & REENROLLMENT FORM

For those of you who receive the newsletter via post you will find included a reenrollment form and a Club Nomination form.

For those of you who receive it via email these forms will be mailed out separately.

Please return the reenrollment form as soon as you are able to.

And please give some thought to whom you would like as President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. It is o/k to nominate yourself if you have the will to do it. You do not need to be skilled with your hands, you just need to care about the club.

Hope to see you all at the AGM on the 27th of July.

Regards, Gino.