

AUGUST 2004

WOODCRAFT MATTERS

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Doncaster Daycarvers – 2

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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.

Prez's Comment

Wood is Good

Because the last newsletter was published so soon after the A.G.M. at the end of July, scant information was given about the details of the meeting for those who didn't attend. About 35 members attended, a better roll up than some of our previous AGMs.

Office bearers elected un-opposed were myself as President; Anne Schafer, Secretary; and Stan Smith, Treasurer.

General committee members are Gino Centofanti, Newsletter Editor; Ronnit Freedman, Membership Secretary; Allan Way, Charlie Chamberlain, Ian Hansford, Yen Ip, Ken Morrison, John Tarry and Stuart Watson, our rep. on the Council of Woodwork Clubs.

Contact one of the above for details of what's happening around the club.

A copy of the President's Report to the A.G.M. is available to read for those interested, and copies of the Treasurer's Report and the financial statement will be left on the table with the sign-in book for members information.

Some members are still a bit tardy in renewing for the 2004 – 2005 financial year.

The Newsletter will stop coming soon and you will no longer be entitled to use the facilities of the club.

Robert McNamara

Bandsaw Accreditation Session

On Wednesday August 11th., we held another successful session on bandsaw usage. Fourteen members attended, some for a second time as a "refresher".

Those who missed the opportunity, or chose not to be there, are reminded that unless you have attended one of these sessions and have your name listed on the sheet posted on the front of the bandsaw, you are not permitted to operate the machine. The management committee are quite firm on this point.

Future sessions will be conducted when sufficient numbers warrant.

Robert McNamara

Bandsaw night.

The bandsaw night attracted 15 People (Including Melva who was there to keep Robert in line).

There have been a few times in my life that I've let someone use one of my tools, only to have it returned damaged. The person meant no harm but they actually thought they knew all about it or simply had no understanding of the fundamentals. Which is why I no longer loan my tools unless I know the person is capable of using them as the maker intended.

The tools in the club rooms are no different, in this case the bandsaw. I was once guilty of breaking a blade by cutting a round log across the grain. What happened was, as soon as the blade hit the log, the log rolled and the blade became jammed in the log and the rest you know. Jack Jones gave me an ear full that night. It could have been easily avoided but I simply did not know how, nor in hind sight, know what I was doing.

The reason I mention all the above is that most of our members have not had their name placed on the list attached to the bandsaw. For those who don't know, having your name on this list will entitle you to use it.

This is why it is important to become accredited on the bandsaw before being able to use it, as it is a health and safety issue as well as potential damage occurring to the machine if it is not used correctly.

The training night was enjoyable, and in the end you get the right to use the bandsaw.

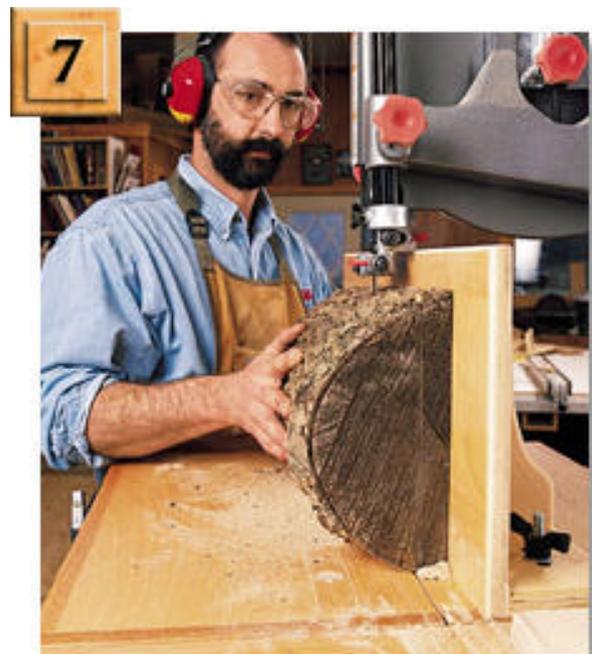
Topics covered on the night were fitting the blade, tracking, tensioning, tips on basic cutting e.g. not backing out of a cut and how to work around this by placing relief cuts into the work before hand, (refer diagram on page 3) cutting round material along the grain (refer photos 6 and 7 below) as well as across the grain (no photo available).

The latter is not as easy as one may think, so it was definitely worth attending just for this alone.

Circle cutting methods were also covered and finally bandsaw safety which cannot be understated was also covered.

I'm sure I speak on behalf of everyone there, when I say thank you for taking the time to construct and run this course, it was definitely worth showing up for.

Gino.



Above photo's were taken from the woodsmith site on the Internet.

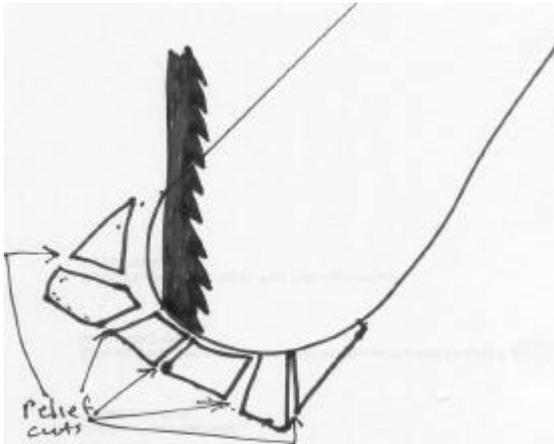
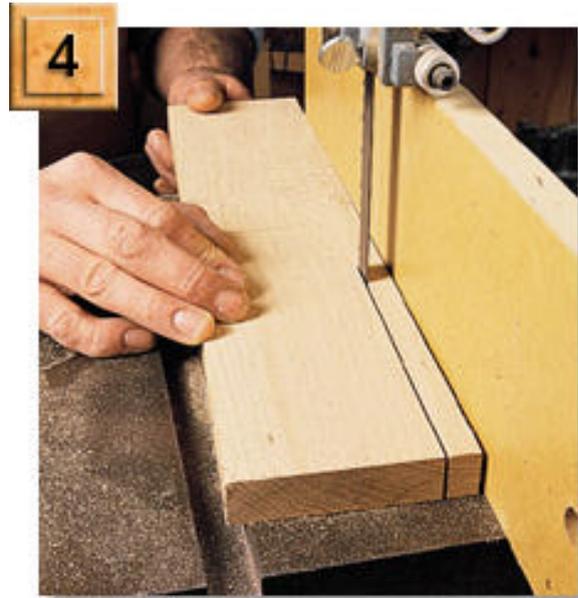


Photo top left shows a plank of wood being resawn. Potentially for box making.

Photo Top Right shows a rip cut on a board. Using a guide.

The above photo's were taken from the woodsmith site on the Internet.

The work of art on the left shows relief cuts on a curve.

Box Making Course

A new course is about to commence on Monday 6th. September, at 7.00 pm, run by Ken Morrison. This is a six week course, and not to be confused with the box making clubs already running.

Cost is \$65 mostly inclusive (some extra may be charged for exotic timbers or hardware used)

Contact Robert on 9876 1032 if you are interested, although be warned that the class is almost full.

French Polishing Course

Following Charlie's successful course now concluded, a further course will be offered immediately after the Ken's box making.

This course will be also open to people from outside the club, so if you are interested, get in first before all the places are taken.

Ring Charlie on 9728 2179

WOODTURNERS WAFFLE

The August meeting was well attended and those who were there enjoyed a good talk and demonstration by Ken Morrison. Ken went to a lot of trouble to bring things along for all to see and some to try but carvers do not have to worry, your secret is safe with us. I have seen Ken do two demonstrations in the last two months, and have thoroughly enjoyed both. On behalf of all of us a big thanks.

Also on the night we had a good bit of show and tell (refer photo on page 5), so let's have more next month – bowls of all sorts.

September 16th meeting activity will be completion of bowls that we started two months ago. Stuart will demonstrate the inside and I will do finishing. Bring your tools, sandpaper and finish. I want to see some good finished bowls.

Bill Bridges is going to blow the dust off his lathe and do the outside of a bowl made out of good wood so that he can take home a nice bowl for his wife who thinks all he does at club is talk and collect \$2 coins. So the pressure is on Bill.

The French polishing course has finished. Nine people completed their pieces; all have done well and seem to have had a good time doing it. I had to yell a bit over the top of the talking but the results were worth it. It was the first time for me teaching a group and I have enjoyed doing it and seeing the finished pieces. I will do one more course if we can get the numbers. (ref to photo's on page 5)

I would like to congratulate one of our lady turners Melinda Dawson on her Wood Machining Award. The win helped her get an early sign off on her apprenticeship. I know your family is proud of you as well. If members would like to know more look on the notice board.

Charlie Chamberlain



Ken Morrison on the demo night.



Some of the carvings displayed by Ken

Wanted

Wanted

Wanted

Articles of interest from Readers (and in particular newer members) to fill this newsletter.

Trips, trees, problems, tips & tricks, jokes, Question and Answers. Etc.

Wanted

Wanted

Wanted



Above carving of a dog by Ken



Above show and Tell on Central night



Above coffee table before being French polished



Same coffee table after being French polished

THE ECLECTICS.

The Eclectics group will be having their annual exhibition starting Saturday the 23rd of October and continuing until the 29th of October. The exhibition will consist of Postcards, Paintings, Prints, Collages and Sculpture. All are invited to attend, so bring your friends along too.

The place.

Malvern Artists Society Gallery.
1299 High Street Malvern,
Between 11am to 4.30pm, Telephone 9822 7813.

Jean Carson Gray

Question and Answer

Last month Albert Akkerman asked the question on how to Ebonise timber, Albert here is your answer.

Ebonising Timber

This formula works well on Red Gum, some Eucalyptus species and Oak. It does not work well on timbers such as Pine.

1. You start with a small handful of fine steel wool "0000".
2. Wash the steel wool of any impurities in turps
3. Flush out turps by using warm soapy water
4. Remove soap residue in the steel wool by rinsing in clean water.
5. Shake the steel wool to remove water out of steel wool.
6. Immerse in small glass jar with white vinegar, DO NOT put lid on tightly as gasses will build up and in this way they can escape.
7. Soak for 3 – 4 weeks. Strain mixture perhaps with a stocking or anything else you can think of.

The result should be a dark brown solution.

Use gloves when applying

Swab on with a soft cloth – Timber should be dry in about an hour.
Apply a number of times leaving to dry out fully in-between coats

Use a sample piece so you can gauge what the finished result will look like.

Some woods which are low in Tanin, if need be apply a strong black tea in addition to the ebonising solution. The two should be applied alternatively i.e. ebonising solution / tea / ebonising solution etc.

This information was kindly passed on by John Dawdy, of which John got the original formula from Eugene Dimitriadis. According to John, Eugene was very giving and forthcoming with his information. Got to love people like that.

I would also like to thank George Reivers who was also kind enough to reply to the call for help. George's formula was basically the same but John had a little more detail in his.

Thanks to you both.

Regards

Editor.