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May 2014

For the calendar

- 12th May** Combined meeting in Lara
- 19th May** Demonstration by Paul Barton
- 2nd June** Homemade tool or jig meeting night
- 16th June** demonstration by Screw it Screws
- 7th July** Candlestick/s meeting night
- 4th August** Childs chair meeting night
- 1st September** Toy meeting night
- 6th October** Bowl meeting night
- 3rd November** Christmas theme item meeting night
- 1st December** Toy to be donated to a child for Christmas

PRESIDENTS REPORT

This is the time of the year when we need all of our members to consider if they are in a position to stand for committee as election of club office bearers will take place over the next couple of months. This year we will see a number of members of the clubs committee stand down from their positions. The reasons for the decisions are varied but it allows for new members to step in and fill the vacancies. If you feel that you maybe in a position to nominate for committee and you would like to discuss the matter further please speak to one of the current committee members who will be able to give you information regarding what is involved.

Being a member of the committee allows you to have a better insight into what is involved in the running of the club and a say in future directions. Please consider your situation as it is only with an effective committee that the club can operate for the benefit of you the members.

The last three months have certainly not been as hectic as the months of October, November and December were but there still have been some activities that the club have been involved with. There was the Blokes Night In on 26 March at Bunnings in Waurnd Ponds and the Easter Family Night on 10 April also at Bunnings. Thank you to those members who assisted on both the nights and a very special thank you to those members who gave of their time to cut out the rabbits and the boxes for the Easter Family Night. The next night at Bunnings will be on 8 May as an activity night for children to make an item for Mum on Mothers Day. We have been asked to assist in the preparation of a planter box that Bunnings will provide a plant to go in so that the children can give it to their Mum on her special day.

On 17 March members attended U-Beaut Polishes in Moolap and were treated to a demonstration of their products by Neil Ellis. Neil and Pauline made all members who attended very welcome and their discounted sale of polishes, associated products and timber was most appreciated by those members who accepted their generous offer.

On 19 May we will have a demonstration by Paul Barton on how he decorates his very thin turned bowls. This will be the third and final (at this stage) visit by Paul to our club. Paul spoke about and displayed his work at the combined meeting held in 2013 at the Grovedale Neighbourhood Centre. He also attended one of our club work nights and demonstrated how he went about turning one of his hollow form bowls. In this his third visit Paul will demonstrate how he decorates his turned items before applying a finish and making them available of sale.

On 16 June we will have a visit from Rob and Ann Low from Screw it Screws Pty Ltd to demonstrate their screws and the pocket hole joinery jig.

Some members maybe wondering with all these demonstrations when are we ever going to get anything done in the workshop at The Gordon? Not to worry the committee have been working on that as well and have arranged with John Lane at The Gordon that we can have access to their workshop area on the fourth Thursday of each month as an additional workshop night. To that end the three club groups of members interested in toy making, furniture and turning will meet at 7.00pm at The Gordon on the fourth Thursday of the month commencing in April 2014.

I would like to remind all members once again that we only have access to the facilities at The Gordon as a result of the generosity of the senior staff and we need to ensure that we treat the building, facilities, equipment and ALL STAFF with great respect. I often think that if we were unable to use The Gordon I don't know where we would be able to find a building here in Geelong to accommodate us for meetings and have the workshop facilities that we have available to us..

This is a special thank you to the member who made an anonymous cash donation to the club (I know that I have mentioned it as meetings but now it is in writing) money has been put to great use and the club have purchased a bobbin sander for all members to use in the workshop at The Gordon. I am sure that those members who are involved with the toy making at the club will get a lot of work out of the sander and make their task of making toys all that much easier. Thank you once again to the member concerned who made the donation to the club, it is most appreciated.

The Bellarine Woodworkers are at present making extensions to their workshop, situated on land at the Drysdale railway station. If any members are interested in going to see what the various groups do at the workshop please ring their President Charlie Christiaans on 5251 3484 and arrange a visit. The various groups meet during the mornings on different week days doing intarsia, box making, turning, model making, carving, and general woodworking including toy making. If you are interested please phone Charlie and let him know that you are a member of the Barwon Valley Woodwrights and he will give you details of when the groups meet and who is the organiser of the particular group you are interested in and their contact details.

It would be remiss of me if I did not make mention of the following in my report but it is with a heavy heart that I do so. On 23 March one of our members Neville Condie unexpectedly passed away whilst on holidays in Queensland. The number of people who attended Neville's funeral was an indication of the standing Neville had in the community and the impact that he had had on so many people. It also made those who attended aware of the number of organisations that Neville was or had been a member of and how he was so greatly respected in those organisations. Neville was one member who you could turn to if you had a mechanical problem with any item of equipment and Neville would do his utmost to fix it for you. He will be sadly missed.

Willi Casanova's mother Elizabeth Van Leeuwen passed away on 28 March and our condolences have been extended to Willi on this sad occasion. On 2 April John de Beer's wife Christina passed away after a long illness. All members extend to John their sympathy on the passing of Christina. Family had been a large part of Christina's life and she will be missed.

In closing my report I would like to ask all members to consider nominating for the committee. All positions on the committee are vacant and all members are entitled to nominate so please give it serious consideration. The club can only continue to be successful if we have a strong committee.



The Bowl saver in the photo is a handy tool I use when I source large green wood. The wood shown is Queensland Box that came from a large tree in Clifton Springs. The Bowl Saver has circular blades that cut out smaller bowls from a larger bowl. I usually get two sometimes three bowls from one bowl. So the cost of the bowl saver is soon payed back in the extra bowls you get. In the second photo the top four bowls were extra I gained using the Bowl saver. It has been three months since I rough turned the bowls and I have not seen a split yet.



A sad story with a happy ending

A lady came to our woodcraft exhibition last year and purchased a very well made wooden clock

All was great until earlier this year she contacted a member of this club in a somewhat state of distress.

She advised "My dog has just eaten my beautiful clock. Can you help me.?"

It would appear the Jack the little dog had somehow got hold of the clock from the bedroom and started to eat the wooden surround of the clock while she was not home

One of our newer members, Mr Keith Shrimpton very kindly offered to see what could be done to rectify the problem

This week I returned the clock with its completely new wooden surround back to the lady who was absolutely thrilled. (so was the dog)

She insisted on making a donation to the club despite my continual reluctance to accept it.

Today she is one happy lady who is definitely coming to our new woodcraft exhibition later this year to meet the man who fixed her clock.

Beware of Fruit Bats

What is the risk to humans from bat diseases ?

Bats and flying foxes often carry bacteria and viruses which can be very harmful to humans

Although the risks of infection is low people must avoid handling these animals

If you find an injured bat or flying fox call your local wildlife care group or the Dept. of Environment for assistance. Do NOT attempt to free or treat the animal yourself,

What diseases do bats carry ?

Australian Bat Lyssavirus (ABLV) is a virus that can be transmitted via the saliva of bats when the bite or scratch humans. Infection with ABLV causes a rabies like disease in humans that is usually FATAL unless properly treated,

There have been 3 fatal documented cases in Queensland

If you are bitten or scratched by a bat, wash the wound thoroughly and seek immediate medical advice about the treatment and the series of injections that you must now have.

Advice offered by BATMAN with reference to the Queensland Dept. of Health

Making of the Easter Bunnies at Bunnings, Waurn Ponds on Thursday 11 April 2014.

Most members will have seen the proto type of the Easter Bunnies that some of our club members prepared for the Easter Family Night at Bunnings. Lots of work was involved in preparing the components to ensure that we had sufficient stock so that lots of children could make the Bunny boxes on the night.

With our assembly crew and materials arriving at 5.30pm to set-up and get ready the kids and their parents started to arrive well before the advertised start time of 6.00pm. Did they ever start to arrive, the line at times stretched from the demonstration area to the entry door at Bunnings. It was like bus load after bus load were descending on Bunnings at Waurn Ponds and all had come for the family night. To handle the numbers we set ourselves up a production line with kids first putting their name on the front panel of the box with some fancy lettering assisted by David, Neil and John McC. This method of names on boxes proved very time consuming so the decision was made to speed up production by writing names with a permanent marker rather than sticking on the letters.

At the next point in the production line was Ralph, Laury and Rob seated at three benches. The process was to assist the kids nail together two sides, a base and the panel with their name on it on the front. It was great to watch the dynamics of the interaction of the kids, their parents and our members trying to nail all the components together.

The final step in the process was to nail the cut out Easter bunny to the box. John W had some of the young kids a little perplexed when they saw part of his finger missing as he helped them nail the bunny to the box. That was our involvement finished it was then off to the decoration table where Bunnings staff members assisted the kids in decorating their boxes and bunnies.

To assist with the production Dallas, Geoff and Bruce worked in keeping supplies up to the production line by assembling some of boxes so that children only had to attach their name as the front panel and the bunny to the back. By about 8.15pm our crew had just about had enough and with only a few children wandering about we started to pack-up. The almost three hours had gone very quickly and all members who were in attendance had not had a minute to spare.

From all reports the children, their parents and the Bunnings staff all had a great night and our crew of ten did a fantastic job. To all members who assisted in cutting out the bunnies, the box components and who worked on the night a job well done and thanks.

Ballarat Wood and Craft Show

Saturday 12th April 2014

Dallas, Jock and I (Bruce) travelled up to the Ballarat Wood Show in the same car. Jock had us in fits of laughter all the way up there and back. The show this year was organised after much trouble with authorities regarding venue hire costs by a lady wood worker from Ballarat.

The venue was the same as previous years but the number of exhibitors was a lot less than previous shows. Some of the products for sale were repeated on a number of the trade displays. There were many gaps in the display area and an attempt was made to fill these gaps with club demonstrators. There were twelve lathes set-up for demonstrations but with that number of lathes it was difficult to have them all in operation at the one time. One of the demonstrators had seating in front of him with a camera picking up what he was doing and displaying it on a large TV screen which was great.

We spoke to and arranged with three of the exhibitors to be part of our annual exhibition.

1. Screw it screws
2. Baladonia tools – good quality display of tools from the USA.
3. A supplier of good quality timber and his wife who does scroll saw work.

We were not sure as to the reason but there was very limited food available although the coffee was good from the external coffee van. It is always difficult trying to get sufficient members to cover all the requirements of conducting a show and assume that this may have been the situation here.

Signage in the venue was very good and the children's workshop had four items to make, including one for the girls who could make a card with a wooden animal cut out to be stuck on the front. The way in which items for sale were ticket priced was good and we have a blank ticket to consider for our use. The number of people in attendance at noon/1.00pm seemed down on previous years. Having said all that we wish them well for the future in relation to any shows they may hold.

The Carve-In

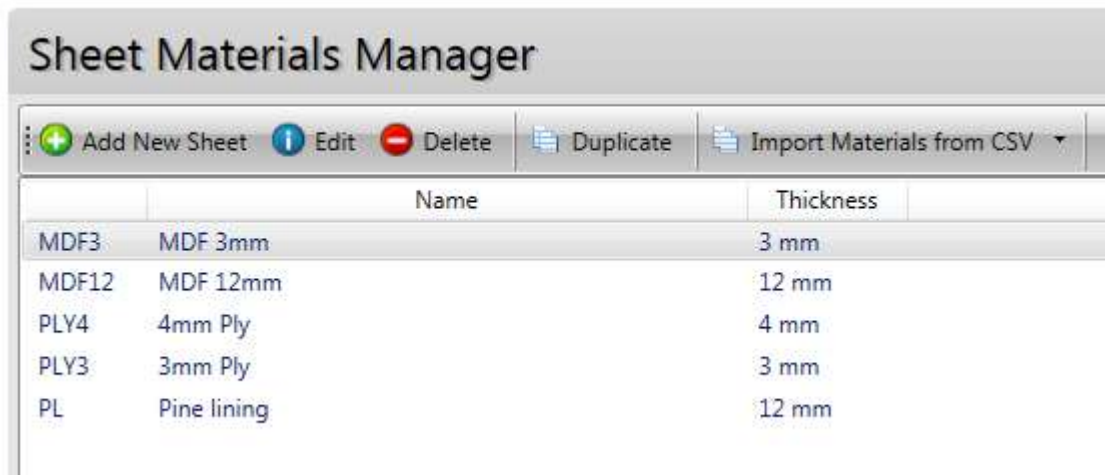
The 2014 Carve-In is on Fri. May 2nd. to Sun. 4th. May 2014. @
Lady Northcote Recreational Camp, Glenmore, Vic.
It is approx. 16K's from Bacchus Marsh, or 60 K's from Geelong.
Best way might be to Google " Geelong to Glenmore ".

MaxCut

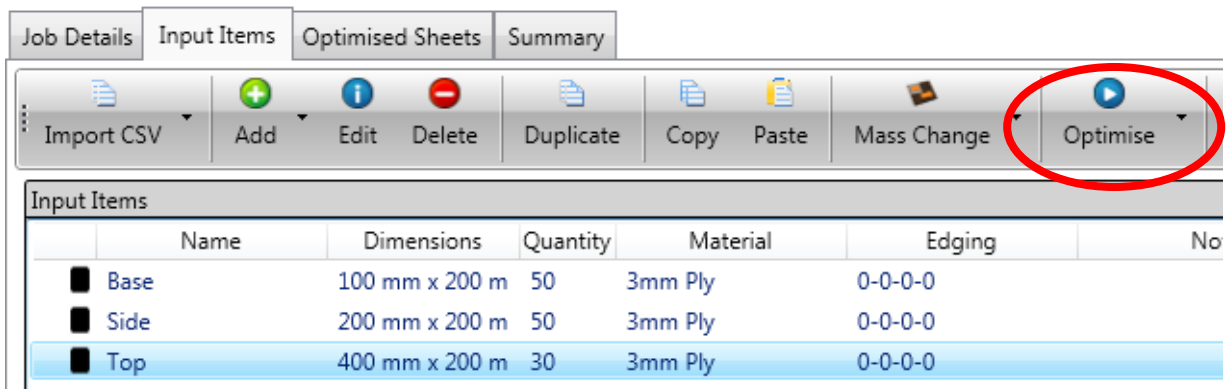
Have you ever had to cut multiple components from sheet material and tried to work out which is the best layout, and how many can you get from the sheet. Recently I came across a program that you can download from the internet which does all the hard work for you. The program is called MaxCut and comes as a free version, or you can upgrade to the Pro version if you need all the bells and whistles when running a business.

Once familiar with the program it is very easy and straight forward to use.

The first step you need to do is enter the size and type of sheet material you wish to cut up. Once you enter a material, it is saved for future use. It can also be deleted if no longer required down the track.



Once you have your sheet entered, you can start adding the sizes of the components, and the quantities of each you need from the sheet.



Once you have all your items entered, you select the "Optimise" button, and the program will calculate the best layout of the components to maximize the output of the sheet. It will use multiple sheets if that is what is needed to get the number of components required. The thickness of your saw blade is also taken into consideration when optimising the sheet.



Sample of Optimised sheet

The image on the screen does not show the dimensions of the components, but the optimised sheet can be printed out and it will have all the dimensions of each component shown. The program can just as easily be used to calculate components from board stock. If this sounds like a useful program that you would use, it can be downloaded from <http://www.maxcut.co.za/>



The members fantastic work at the last meeting.