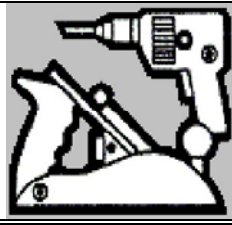


*Waverley Woodworkers Inc.*

Newsletter September 2007

Volume 15 Issue 8



Clubrooms: 2 Windsor Ave.,  
Mount Waverley, Vic 3149

Telephone: 9807 9648

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[www.waverleywoodworkers.org.au](http://www.waverleywoodworkers.org.au)

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### Office Bearers 2006/2007

**President: Gavin Betts: 9807 4661**

**Treasurer: Phil Dunstan: 9808 7510**

**Website Manager**

**Cameron McKerral: 9885 5525**

**Committee Members**

**Wolfgang Becker: 9560 9278**

**Secretary: Tony McLachlan: 9840 7716**

**Auditor: Ian Trivett: 9802 5110**

**Public Officer:**

**Laurie Stuart: 9807 9793**

**Bruce Hartland: 9560 5708**

### PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The monthly meeting of the club was held on Wednesday, 8 August.

After welcoming two new members the president drew the attention of members to recent purchases for the Club - a new refrigerator for the tea-room to replace the old model which had reached its use-by date, and a new dust-extractor which is considerably more powerful than our existing ones and which will be installed in the near future; it will be used to service several of our machine tools (probably the table-saw, the buzzer and the thicknesser). The president also thanked Ken Hood for his very timely provision of a stand for the new refrigerator.

Before introducing the guest speaker the president drew attention to the potential dangers of using the drop-saw.

The guest speaker for the evening was Roger Kearns who gave an extremely interesting and informative talk on the ancient art of coopering.

Roger began by giving some account of his background. A South African by birth, he started a seven-year apprenticeship in coopering at an early age. His training was in traditional methods and the use of hand tools without the assistance of buzzers, routers and the like. Conditions were by no means gentle and although many of his contemporaries dropped out of the course, he persisted and eventually became a qualified cooper.

A frequent item in liquor stores and elsewhere is small wooden barrels, which always combine two features: an attractive exterior and a high price. With the aid of a demonstration model Roger pointed out their unsound manufacture and unsuitability for holding any type of liquid; incorrect hoops and poor construction inevitably caused leaks, which the manufacturers tried to prevent by sealing the inner surface with wax - this affected the flavour of whatever such a barrel held, and in any case did not last for long.

Roger then described the method of barrel-making in which he had been trained, and at the same time he showed the tools which he used. First, staves, normally of French oak, were shaped with a murderous, axe-like implement whose blade measured at least three hundred millimetres. When the staves had been cut with the appropriate curvature and angled sides they were fitted together with hoops, beginning from the middle and working to the top. At the beginning of this process a fire was lit and the staves, held together by a middle hoop, were placed over it so the wood, which was moistened, would bend more easily. When the top half of the barrel had been formed by additional hoops the whole was reversed and the process duplicated. The barrel was now shaped but was open at both ends. A groove was then cut around the inside of each end to take the top and bottom and when these were fitted, the ends of the staves could be trimmed. It was obvious that each step was extremely tricky and involved enormous skill.

Roger concluded by telling us of his present position as an occupational therapist. The club is very obliged to him for his talk, which was one of the most interesting we have heard. In presenting him with a bottle of port the president expressed the hope that the wine had been matured in a properly constructed French-oak barrel.

In the following demonstration of members' work Ray French began by showing us a bar stool and chair, the former made from an attractive combination of pine and jarrah, the latter from pine and red gum. The chair, which is Ray's own design for a child grown too big for a highchair but too small for a normal sized chair, was strongly and attractively made. Ray has very generously presented it to the club for a sale of members' work which will be held later in the year.

Ian Trivett followed with a long three-drawer cabinet made from recycled timber, which was tentatively identified as western red cedar. Ian made this useful and handsome piece of furniture under the direction of George Perry in the Wednesday afternoon class.

Bob Morrison showed more of his turning with a beautiful pot pourri of birds-eye huon pine and a small vase of belar.

John Baker and Geoff Allen also presented turned work, John with a delicate perfume bottle and Geoff with a very novel bowl of cypress pine. Geoff described how the cypress pine had been rescued from the clutches of council workers.

The evening concluded with a new member, Colin Clark, showing us two small wheels for a gun carriage. These were made in the traditional way with wooden hub, spokes and felloe with iron binding on the hub and felloe. If Colin is as successful in making the cannon, it should prove a highly effective weapon. Various suggestions were made as to how it could be used to improve the present political scene.

#### Information about the Club

An accident with the drop-saw, which resulted in a broken finger, was reported in the last newsletter. Since then another has occurred. No injury was suffered by the user but more damage was done to the saw. Would all members please note the following:

The drop-saw can be dangerous if used incorrectly. If you are not confident with it, do not use it.

- Only cut wood which is straight and sits firmly against the fence and on the base. Always hold the wood securely.
- Do not cut short pieces (i.e. less than 400mm. in length).
- Do not use a clamped chock on either side of the saw for pieces less than 400mm. in length.
- When using a clamped chock, firmly hold the wood to be cut between the saw blade and chock.
- A backing board between the fence and your work must be higher and longer than your work.
- If in any doubt about how the saw should be used, ask the supervisor.

Hume Valley School of Broadmeadow has donated a Woodfast lathe and a Woodfast buzzer to the Club. These will probably be picked up on Monday, 10 September, when a decision will be made as to how they can be used.

#### Next Club night

The speaker at our next Club night (Wednesday, 12 September) will be Carl Lutz who will give us a talk on wood finishes; he will also tell us about new products from Carbatec.

#### Matters dealt with at the last committee meeting

- The Club's participation at the Geriatric Orientation being organized by the Monash Council.
- The fitting of Bob Morrison's rest to one of the grinders.
- The fitting of a new set of bearing supports for the small bandsaw.
- Ray French's donation of a small highchair for sale at a future club fête. The committee expressed its thanks for Ray's generosity.

#### JUST TURNING NOTES

Just Turning notes

6th August 2007

The meeting was held at the home of Peter Stacey and started at 7.30 pm with 8 members in attendance. Also present were two visitors.

Bob Morrison showed two works in progress, one of Irish Strawberry (lidded container) and the other a Belar bowl.

Kelvin Cope, one of the visitors, brought along a Cypress pine piece. This came from his golf course where a golf ball had lodged in the tree many years ago. The tree had grown around the ball and should make an interesting trophy when Kelvin finishes the project. Kelvin is taking suggestions to complete this piece.

Peter Stacey showed an atomiser of Robinia, a lidded container of Robinia and two small bowls of She Oak. He also presented another small bowl of unknown timber. The finish on these was wipe-on poly. Peter also showed a bottle opener out of Myrtle.

Peter Kerr brought along a small bowl laminated with Sassafras and Flame and a small burl bowl. He also showed a bowl laminated in Sassafras, Jarrah, Silky Oak and Brush Box. All were finished with EEE and Shellawax. Peter was not happy with the apparent unevenness of the finish which he thought was probably due to the shrinkage of some of the laminates. Various suggestions were offered by the group to possibly rectify the problem.

Jan Scheffer, a prospective new member, gave us all an interesting run-down on his background. He has an unusual occupation. He makes prosthetic legs.

Manfred Linke brought a spotted gum plate which was warped, but, as he said, "still looked good".

Bob Lorensene brought along 25 turned mushrooms for the club's Xmas gift distribution. Thanks Bob.

Helen brought along a matching pair of salt and pepper shakers and another item. Well done Helen.  
John Baker had nothing to present and considered bringing along some tax returns to show the group, but thought better of it.  
Wolfgang had nothing to show.  
The group then retired to Peter Stacey's work shop and all were impressed with his set up.  
The meeting then closed at 9.30 pm.  
We would all wish to thank Peter and his wife for their warm hospitality.

20th August

The meeting started at 7.30 pm with 11 members in attendance.

Bob Lorenene brought 2 mushrooms one eucalyptus and one silver banksia.  
Peter Kerr brought along a nicely shaped ash container. He had had trouble with the inside bottom of this and suggestions were made as to how he could overcome some of these problems.  
John Baker presented a very nice finial of cypress pine. The finial was completed in three sections, as his lathe could not accommodate the overall length.  
Wolfgang Becker made a gavel of redgum with a base of ash. This handsome piece is an order for the Australian Army Apprentices meeting to be held in Canberra. Wolfgang attached the brass badge provided in an upright position. A very good effort.  
Ian Heffernan showed his redgum gavel with two matching rests for the handle. The base is yet to be made.  
Our host for the night was Cheryl and Bill David.  
Cheryl went to quite some effort with the catering and we all wish to thank her for the excellent presentation of food and drink. Bill then showed his wonderful collection of items he has created over the years.; in particular his barrel wagon which had taken him some 3000 hours to complete.  
This item is valued at \$75000.00. A truly magnificent piece, of museum quality.  
Bill also took us all on a guided tour of his two work shops. Very impressive.  
Thank you Bill and Cheryl for your wonderful hospitality

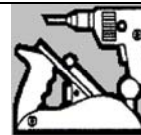
3rd September

The meeting was held at the Club.

Geoff Allen showed a picture of a gavel made of red gum with a brass name plate attached and the handle knob made of Koto. Geoff also lent 2 DVDs for bowl turning.  
Alex Morey made and showed an interesting laminated table lamp incorporating red pieces of plastic to inlay to shine the light through it. Timbers used: the base was Jarrah burl, the stem was from laminated with Silky Oak, Amoorah, and Beech, giving a candle drops effect.  
Bob Morrison's turning lessons for four members begin on Tuesday night, 11th of September for six weeks. All wishing to partake of this type of tuition are invited to put their names on list for the next set of lessons. Another set of lessons will start when four people have enrolled.  
Bob Lorensene brought some blackwood pieces to share.  
Suggested projects could be: turned tap for a barrel, or Christmas ornaments.

# Waverley Woodworkers Inc.

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## Workshop Opening Times

### General woodwork

### Special interest groups

|                                  |  |  |  |
|----------------------------------|--|--|--|
| Monday (only on public holidays) | 9 am –12 noon  | Monday: <b>Assisted woodwork</b>                               | 9 am –12 noon (except public holidays) |
| Tuesday                          | 9 am –12 noon  |  |  |
| Wednesday                        | 9 am –12 noon  | Monday: <b>Carving</b>   | 1:30 pm to 4:30 pm                     |
| Thursday                         | Closed   |  |  |
| Friday                           | 9 am –12 noon  | Monday: <b>Wood Turning</b>                                    | 7:30 pm – 9 pm                         |
| Saturday                         | 9 am –12 noon Dec. to February<br>9 am –4 pm March to November |  |  |
| Sunday                           | Closed   | <b>Club Night:</b> Second Wednesdays of the month<br>pm – 9 pm | 7:30                                   |

If not delivered, please return to:  
Waverley Woodworkers Inc.  
2 Windsor Ave  
Mount Waverley, Vic 3150

