

## Eltham and District Woodworkers Inc.



Reg. Number A0025947P

### **Newsletter Editor:**

The next newsletter will come out at the end of September. Please forward any articles or information that you would like to go into newsletter to Richard Smith at [richardasmith1955@gmail.com](mailto:richardasmith1955@gmail.com) by the 27 September.

### **Next General Meeting:**

**Wednesday 6 September 2023 at 7:30 PM.**

**At Clubhouse, War Memorial Park,**

**Cnr Ironbark Road & De Fredericks Road**

**Yarrambat.**

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT:**

Sad news: One of our long-time members, Joe van Koeverden was out cycling on Monday and was unfortunately struck by a car and has multiple fractures. Earlier in the week he was in the ICU at the Royal Melbourne Hospital. We saw him very little at the club but he is a very keen attendee at our general meetings. He is held in very high esteem by many members at the club. He is renowned for his turning capabilities and has made items for several of our exhibitions, including this one in November.

On another note, we had a very successful day at the Wattle Festival last Sunday the 27th of August. The main aim of our appearance is twofold. Firstly, to sell raffle tickets, and we sold 268 raising \$536. Secondly to highlight some our club's activities, Thommo displayed some of the guitars and stands he'd made, Maïke showed off some of her carving and pyrography, while Martin displayed the pens he'd made. Hank did spoon carving and Eric was tremendous at the lathe, with Rod also doing some turning on the lathe and also displaying his expertise whilst carving. At the end Wes was showing some of the younger people how holes were drilled in the old days using a big auger and a small hand drill. Thanks go out to those people who sold raffle tickets and to those mentioned earlier.

On a further note - safety is an issue which comes up often. Over the past few months, we've had a number of incidents occur. Of particular concern is the Saw Stop, which is the new table saw in the machine room and has been the centre of some safety issues. It is a **very safe** machine, equipped with a cartridge which stops the blade in milli seconds preventing serious injury.

Sylvester Konieczny witnessed an incident at Whittlesea Men's Shed just recently, with a Saw Stop. An individual turned the machine off, but while the blade was still spinning accidentally touched the blade, setting off the cartridge, preventing serious injury. From this incident it is worth noting that even though the Saw Stop is turned off, if the blade is still spinning: - it is **still active**. An accident on the machines costs the club a great deal of money which could have been used elsewhere.

On the weekend starting the 19th of August several of us helped clear out the workshop of John Dawdy, who was a past member of the club and passed away several years ago. His wife, Margaret decided to donate his equipment to members. We decided that as there were two lathes they would be given to the turners and some of the tools be given to the mentoring group. The rest including some wood was left for the members to pick at. There is some of his equipment still remaining and it is in the north-west corner of the meeting room. Many thanks to those who helped clean out his workshop.

Many thanks to Barry McDonald and Rado Starec for their clean up around the clubrooms as part of the Whippersnipping program. The grounds are certainly looking much tidier. Next up in early October are Mark Thompson and Leonard Tabacco Meister. If you can spare a morning to help out, please let me know. Don't forget our competition for this half year with entries to the committee by mid-October. This half year the competition is to make a child's toy. It really doesn't matter how old the child is, as long as the individual is still a child.

Colin Groves



## Survey

A member survey is beside the sign in book. Please complete the survey during the session you attend and leave it in the purple box for collection if you have not already done so. It will close off at the end of the next General Meeting

## FROM THE SECRETARY'S DESK....

Hello again,

Reflecting on the previous month, we've had the Christmas in July lunch. Which I am pleased to say went off very well. We had 30 people in attendance who enjoyed a lovely \*brai of lamb and chicken in a lovely marinade by Martin, some salads, Christmas cake and Christmas pudding and home-made samosas from Raman and his wife. A festive room decor provided the Christmas atmosphere and Wes won the prize for best Christmas attire. Not sure if we could fit any more people in if we do a sit-down function again. Food for thought!

The proceeds from the grant provided by the Federal Government, Department of Health and Aged Care, under the National Shed Development Program – Round 25, administered by the Australian Men's Shed Association (AMSA), on behalf of the department (isn't that a mouthful!) purchased our new drill press which has arrived and is a whole new world in technology. I look forward to using it myself when it is up and running.

The Monday mentoring session has been extended to finish later in the afternoon, to about 1-2pm, for beginners and anyone else who would like to attend for a bit of a refresher on safety within the club and using machinery. We have a few incidents lately where members have been injured and some lucky near misses. It is something that we should all keep in mind and be aware of for ourselves and for others. Further to this, Hamish Hill and Barry Lay have now been conducted two sessions, with good attendance and a wealth of information and knowledge passed on to those who attended. We will be advising you of the next session and what it will be on shortly.

The Wattle Festival was held this Sunday just gone. It was a cracking day weatherwise, with a huge turnout. The organisers should be very happy I would think. Our stall was well attended with Uncle Wes showing young'uns how to use old fashioned hand drills. I remember my father using this sort of drill on his home projects.

The annual Exhibition is getting closer, so I hope you are busily making your items for display and to be sold. This is the club's big event for the year. It where we showcase the incredible skills and craftsmanship by members within our club to the public. And not forgetting Uncle Wes' Workshop. This children love making their wood projects that are put together by Wes and his merry band of helpers. The committee is working hard to get us ready for this, and we will be looking for volunteers to help with the setting up, and also throughout the weekend, and of course the pack down. Pizza and beverages will be served at the end of the weekend.

I will be jetting off overseas towards the end of September, returning just in time for Exhibition. I'm hoping I can visit a sister woodworking club while I am in the UK.

Jane

\*A brai is the South African word for a barbeque

## Working Bee

The next working bee will be on the 16<sup>th</sup> of September from 9.00am (I will confirm this time). The focus of this working bee I'm told will be the container. Removing what is in there now, and installing some racking, putting things back, and creating some space for glue-ups to be stored. I will place a sheet on the whiteboard for you to put your name down to assist. Or you can email Jane or Martin Ganter directly.

## Mentoring Monday

The bleak weather seems to have dampened the woodworking spirit a bit and numbers at the Monday mentoring session have been much lower than normal. However, the enthusiasm is still very evident.



Projects have moved on from an abundance of end grain cutting boards and boxes over to more varied items including a few furniture items. Ron Harvey finished his exquisite end grain board and in preparation for moving into his next project – a ukulele (he will be attending Frank's instrument session) gave what was the highlight of the month with a rendition of the well-known N.Z. Mauri traditional song Pokarekare Ana.



Not only were his ukulele chords executed rather well (no envy here – it was my ukulele that I cannot play) but his singing quite pleasant. Here is a version if you are curious –

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9GXua6gD4Hc>.



Over time a number of unused club assets have been put into service during mentoring. These include the **chisel mortiser** that attaches to the drill press, two vices on the now well used small benches that were totally languishing until the recent cleanup. **Most notably excellent cramp system that has adorned the bottom of one of the unused benches and was deemed “useless” is now in order.** This is thanks to Lyall Demitrios who discovered that it was assembled incorrectly and with adjustments it is now working. Not only is it working but for those that struggle to clamp up tabletops/ cutting boards etc whilst keeping everything flat will be amazed at how it makes this difficult task a breeze.



## Skills Techniques and Safety ALL MEMBERS WELCOME

1-00 pm on Monday the 11th of September: - Timber Technology and the ways of preparing and marking it accurately. We will look at and discuss some timber traits and then the initial processes prior to making.

1-00pm on Monday the 25th of September: - Hand Planes, repair, tuning and sharpening. Past member John Doyle will be offering his wisdom with his techniques and ideas.

It would be wonderful if any members that have particular skills in these or other interesting areas could get in touch with me and get involved on a Monday. Please give me a call 0428577878.

Hamish

## Scrollsaw Group Sunday 13/8/2023

A small group as usual, but all very active on the machines. First, we had Kirsten cutting out some cats and cat puzzle patterns for painting later. Only her second time with the group, and she is making heaps of sawdust with her accurate cutting. The biggest surprise was Chris turning up with her very own brand new Hegner Scrollsaw. I think I can safely say “someone has been bitten by the Scrollsaw bug”

without fear of contradiction. Got the extras too, footswitch, knurled release clamp and spare blades. Chris was keen to try cutting Perspex on her new machine, and we soon had arranged that and set her loose. So, Chris cut some Perspex to cover her previously cut puzzles, so as not to lose any pieces.

Then Kevin was on the Club Hegner pierce cutting an intricate floral design, which he will relief carve later. Kevin has produced some real nice pieces with this technique.

Tony on his Hegner was producing a free-standing Hummingbird and Flower jigsaw puzzle piece. Tony is perfecting this art form, and this finished piece was no exception.

That leaves me. I was pre-cutting pieces for our November Exhibition. But as I was “technical advisor” for the other four, my output was limited to only twelve pieces. That is less than 1/2 an hour’s work for the whole day. But the post-script here is: at home on Monday, with no distractions, in less than three hours, I churned out 47 pieces! So according to my calculations, I only need to prepare 20 more before November. That gives me over TWO MONTHS. Piece of cake! Practically ‘home and hosed’.

But first, I need to go and buy some wood.

Steve Mitchener.

## Instrument Group

The instrument group is mainly in the middle of a mandolin making sessions. These are not as easy as a ukulele but still quite manageable and very interesting. We should have at least 4 finished by the Exhibition this year. We also have one tenor ukulele just started by a new member, Ron Harvey, and another possible member interested. My time has been shared between a mandolin and the Xylophone build for the club raffle.

13 note alto diatonic Xylophone





Part complete Mandolin

Steve Mitchener

## Turning Group (Thursday PMs) Report for August 23

The Turning Group had a productive month culminating with demonstrations by Eric, myself and Martin at last Sunday's Wattle Festival. One couple were observed as being so emersed in Eric's turning demonstration, that they watched intently and engaged with Eric for around half an hour as he turned a small thin edged bowl. Meanwhile during the month, our numbers were added to by Adrian who was working on some vice handles for a workbench being readied for the exhibition and also the return after holidays by Peter Gannon who worked on a bowl using paperbark wood which was quoted as being as 'hard as hell' and really gave his turning tools a workout. Nearby, Tom worked on a number of projects during the month, including a thin-walled small bowl and 'birdsmouth' vase. Eric finished a 'pot-pourri' bowl (which was much appreciated by his wife) an 'embellished' bowl out of blackwood, a small thin walled nutbowl out of pearwood and then a further hollow form project. I busied myself with a couple of candle holders, a small bowl, a banksia nut vase, and another bowl trying a range of different designs that I'd found on Pinterest.



Rod Gorfine on behalf of the Thursday Turners

## Carving Group Report for August 2023.

Our Club's Carving Group met on the 4th and 18th during the month with a few members down due to holidays, ill health and other commitments. Notwithstanding, lots of projects were underway with David Green particularly busy with 5 projects going including a 'mobi strip', a cute little dog, a gnome character, a Celtic knot and finally a 'leaning man'.



Bernie continued on with his relief carvings destined to be the sides, ends and top of a special box project. Steve had turned his attention toward a beautiful little snake, and I finished off the fork piece of a serving set made from huon pine. Meike, just back from holiday, had been productive whilst away with a very clever relief carving of two baby elephants with their trunks entwined and also finalising the sanding of her longer-term owl sculpture project. Kevin was also working on a relief carving of flowers and birds and Hank concentrated on his very tactile handheld sculptures many made from his favourite wood, osage orange, and typically sanded up to 2000 grit.

Rod Gorfine on behalf of the carving group.



## Box Making sessions suspended.

I've recently stopped running box making on the 3rd Saturday morning. I've done this for a couple of reasons. Attendance has been erratic, the Monday morning mentoring sessions with Hamish are doing good work teaching new members the basics of box making. Also other members don't seem to read the schedule and turn up as though it's open workshop. Probably best that it actually becomes open workshop.

I will contact those regular box makers who have ongoing projects to assist with finishing current projects, but we'll choose a more suitable time. We are blessed with many excellent box makers in our club, so hopefully we'll be able to crank it up again soon.

Regards,  
John Brownrigg

## DISCOUNTS

The following organisations will offer us a discount of the amount indicated to Club members.

Britton Timbers	10%	
Mathews Timber	10%	only on large quantities
Oz Timber	10%	
Urban Salvage	5%-10%	
D.V. Mitre 10	10%	

To get a discount you will have to show that you are a member of EDWI, either by wearing your name badge or club clothing or both.

If you know of somewhere else where we can get a discount tell a committee member.

## Potential Suppliers for Members

Listed below are some suggested timber suppliers within Melbourne metropolitan area. If you have other good sources let Richard Smith know so that they can be added to the list

Britton Timbers, Dandenong  
<https://brittontimbers.com.au>  
 Contact: Brendon O'Brian

Mathews Timber, Kilsyth.....  
<https://www.mathewstimber.com.au>

W R Timbers, Kilsyth.....  
<https://wrtimbers.com.au>

Steve's Woodenstuff  
<https://Woodenstuff.com.au>  
 0412 585 906

Shiver Me Timbers, Clayton.....  
 (Sells new and Recycled Timbers)  
<https://shivermetimbers.com.au>

Melbourne Timber Supplies, Deer Park.....  
<https://www.melbournetimber.com.au>

Oz Timber, Thomastown.....  
<https://oztimbers.com.au>

Australian Sustainable Hardwoods, Hayfield.....  
<https://ash.com.au>

Cabinet Timbers, Braeside.....  
<https://www.cabinettimbers.com.au>

Urban Salvage  
<https://www.urbansalvage.com.au>

## FOR YOUR INFORMATION:

### **Committee Members for Eltham and District Woodworks Club Inc.**

President	Colin Groves	0417 563 699
Vice President	Raman Rao	0433 741 753
Secretary	Jane Hammett	0408 195 965
Treasurer	Dave Brooks	0438 344 024

#### Committee

Adrian Desfontaines	0414 795 347
Peter Davey	0421 544 115
Aurora Messina	0401 866 859
Martin Ganter	0405 783 592
Richard Smith	0405 611 757

## **DATES FOR THE CALENDAR:**

6 September	General Meeting
16 September	Working Bee and BBQ 9.00am-12.00am
9-12 November	Exhibition (Thursday set-up)

**WORKSHOP SCHEDULE:**

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Second Sunday <b>Scrollsaw</b> 9.00 – 4.00pm Steve Mitchener 0409 003 487	Every Monday <b>Mentoring</b> 9.30am-11.30pm Charlie Camera 0413481699 Hamish Hill 0428 577 878	Every Tuesday <b>Open Workshop</b> 9.00am-12.30pm Colin Groves 0417 563 699	Every Wednesday <b>Wes' Exhibition Toy Workshop</b> 9.30-12.30 Wes Weight 0478 021 269	Every Thursday <b>Open Workshop</b> 9.00am-1.00pm Paul Ruston 0417 017 347	First and Third Friday <b>Carving</b> 9.00am-3.00pm Rod Gorfine 0418 108 551	First & third Saturday <b>Open Workshop</b> 8.30am-12.00pm Aurora Messina 0417 563 699
Fourth Sunday <b>Pyrography</b> 9.00am – 4.00pm Steve Mitchener 0409 003 487	Second and Fourth Monday Skills, Techniques and Safety Session 1.00-2.00 Hamish Hill 0428 577 878	Second & Fourth Tuesday <b>Instrument Group</b> 1.00pm – 4.00pm Frank Camera 0427 964 245	First Wednesday <b>General Meeting</b> 7.30pm @ the club rooms  Third Wednesday <b>Committee Meeting</b> 7.30pm @ the club rooms	Sylvester Konieczny 0407 009 951  Every Thursday <b>Turning</b> 1.00pm – 4.00pm Rod Gorfine 0418 108 551	Second & Fourth Saturdays <b>Open Workshop</b> 9.00-12.00 Toby Grant 0488 994 741  Colin Groves 0417 563 699	Fifth Saturday <b>Open Workshop</b> 9.00-12.00 Colin Groves 0417 563 699

**NB: Due to other commitments Peter Davey's Tuesday evening open workshop will no longer be run. We are looking at other options through the week and will notify you of any decision made in this regard.**