

# Eltham and District Woodworkers Inc.



Reg. Number A0025947P

## Newsletter Editor:

The next newsletter will come out at the end of October. 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 25 October.

My apologies that by error, in the August edition, the article concerning the instrument making report was attributed to Steve Mitchener whereas it should have been credited to Frank Camera.

## Next General Meeting:

**Wednesday 4 October 2023 at 7:30 PM.  
At Clubhouse, War Memorial Park,  
448 Ironbark Road cnr. De Fredericks Road.  
Yarrambat.**

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Our Exhibition is coming, up very fast, it's only 6 weeks away so it's time to start finishing off your exhibit. I would like to see over 100 exhibits from individuals. It doesn't matter whether you are new to the club, have been a member for a long time, or fit somewhere in between, you can exhibit your woodwork at our exhibition. Some people feel that exhibits have to be first class: Not true. As long as you display a facet of woodworking that shows you have put effort into producing your piece of work. In my travels, particularly at the club, I have seen some amazing pieces of work, and when I ask people if their piece of work is going in the exhibition they often answer in the negative, because they believe it is not good enough - PUT IT IN!! For a start I will be exhibiting! Exhibits have to be delivered to the Eltham Community Centre early in the morning on Thursday the 9th of November. More information about this will be coming soon.

Also don't forget my competition of producing a child's toy. Entries have to be delivered to the clubrooms during the afternoon or evening of Tuesday the 17th of October (1pm till 8.30pm). They will be judged by the committee (who will not be in the competition) at their meeting on the 18th of October and the prize awarded shortly afterwards. The prize for this competition will be a \$50 voucher.

What a wonderful visit we must have had on the 16th of September. Many people commented to me about the fairies that must have come in on that night and made changes especially to the tool room and the container. We now have a tool room where we can see things and similar articles are grouped together, such as drill bits, tools, sandpapers, etc., but the fairies left a sign telling us to put things back where we find them.



They have then moved into the container, tidied up and added some new shelving. They even left some room for glue-ups and work in progress. Then to the extractor area for a very big clean up. I will also mention the special male fairy and his wife Catherine who put up some French cleats around the router. On a more serious note, many thanks to Martin for organizing the working bee and the people who turned up to help out. More tools will be put on French cleats in the future.

Colin Groves

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

Jane is presently travelling overseas, so there is no report for this newsletter.

## Working Bee

A short working bee was held at the Community Centre to sort out the plinths and to do a quick touch up job to some of their paintwork. Thanks to Colin, Adrian, Wes and Richard for sorting and painting the plinths ready for the upcoming exhibition.



## Mentoring Monday

It is surprising how attendance constantly changes with a few regulars and many other members drifting in and out of the sessions. Overall, the atmosphere is very relaxing and the morning tea breaks a great social event where we find out that life is not just all woodworking. It seems that the denizens of the woodpile do have a life in other pursuits. The most talked subject seems to be renewable energy with several of us very involved and very enthusiastic and some others not so much but willing to have their say.

As it is a mentoring session it is no surprise that we are trying out new techniques. Peter Goddard fresh from a volunteering stint as a first nations teacher in the Northern Territory has busied himself with again making a near copy of our first prize raffle bench. Last year Peter coincidentally and independently made exactly the same first prize and this year he is again doing something similar – **what is going on?** Peter's challenge was to drill leg tenons into the seat at exact compound angles, something with which Peter Davey and the first prize construction crew have also been busy doing albeit with a much more difficult challenge. By "angling" the drill press table and presenting the piece at the correct skew angle we made it happen.



*Peter drills skewed tenons for the legs.*

Neil Barrass, a regular attendee has come a long way with skills and has completed a nice table using domino joinery and even making his own table buttons to attach the top.



Neil's table.

Hamish, always the master is continuing to advocate for using hand tools. It has always been apparent that in our club the use of hand tools in the workshop is rare which is a pity as when attendees are shown the delights of working with hand tools, and the results easily obtained, it is usually a revelation. **Hamish is continuing the Monday afternoon extensions**

to help instil appreciation for hand tools and techniques and if the reports from past attendees is anything to go by – well worth attending.

By the way using hand tools and accentuating a natural look Hamish recently brought in this very nice piece for show.



Hamish side table.

## **Skills Techniques and Safety** ALL MEMBERS WELCOME

1-00 pm on Monday the 9<sup>th</sup> of October: - We will be looking at, discussing and demonstrating some interesting, decorative and structurally sound joints for timber with emphasis on how, why and when to use them.

1-00pm on Monday the 23<sup>rd</sup> of October: - Hand saws, their sharpening and maintenance as well as discussion around types and reasons for the many variations in saws and their use. Thankfully club member Rado Starec will be guiding us through this session.

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

## **Pyrography Group Sunday 27/8/2023**

Smaller group than usual for Pyrography as Maike and Kevin were off supporting the group flying the flag for the Club at the Wattle Festival.

Beryl was here working on her Hippopotamus Family picture. Spent the day finishing the shading of the animals and putting the shadows under the bodies to give the illusion of mass and shape. It looks fantastic.

Kirsten burnt details on the cats which were cut during the Scrollsaw session earlier this month (August). On the mother and five kitten's stripes and other details were added to highlight the group cluster. Turned out real effective. The other piece was a silhouette of a cat which Kirsten filled with random zentangle patterns. The result was a bit more "artistic". I finished a small picture of a Polar Bear and Cubs which I had started last month, then spent some time working on a random pattern piece to finish the day.

Steve Mitchener.

## **Pyrography Group Sunday 24/9/2023**

This session turned out to be a "fizzer". I was contacted a few days earlier as one of the group was shifting house that weekend, so obviously not coming. Then I was notified by another that a "family function" was their priority. Not a problem, the 65th wedding anniversary for the parents would be a big one in anyone's calendar.

Then I was contacted early on the day that a third individual had woken up "with flu-like symptoms". Not coming. Fully understand, and grateful for their concern for my welfare, no problems. So that only left one other besides me.

So I contacted the last group member, giving them the option of cancelling or coming. As they were busy with family anyway, and going to be a late starter, they opted for the easier cancellation option. So, I agreed to cancel. Cool! Day off for me!

No names or genders were revealed in the writing of this article in the interests of preserving the private lives of the participants.

So, sorry folks, nothing got burnt this month. Better luck next month.

Steve Mitchener.

## **Scrollsaw Group Sunday 10/9/2023**

Chris was putting herself and her new saw to the test by cutting a trivet in Tasmanian Oak. It was an alternating offset diminishing crescent design I had concocted a few years back. It was a bit more of a challenge than Chris realised, but perseverance and determination always gives results as in this case.

Kirsten spent the time marking out finger joints for a box in thick ply. Determined to use this technique to make boxes for home, varying sizes, so it's a good one to master. We cut the ply to the required height and width so the marking out could continue at home. For this type of joinery accuracy in marking out is critical. Once the technique is mastered, you can make any size box you like.

Kirsten and I then discussed some half-sized animal shaped planter boxes for cutting next time. Meanwhile Kevin was pierce cutting segments for an octagonal shaped container in hard wood. This was proving a bit fiddlier than it looked.

Tony has started cutting a "Swinging Macaw Puzzle". This looks great when it's all finished. I pointed out the trap with painting this piece up, get it wrong and it's a "one piece puzzle"

because it won't come apart.

When I had time, I was cutting finger joins in a small box, which is having finger joins on all the edges. I am making this one to show Kirsten and Chris how it is actually done. From the amount I got done, it looks like one I'll have to finish at home.

Steve Mitchener.

## Instrument Group

The instrument group members are still busy with their projects but the prize for the first complete mandolin goes to Tom Laber.

Tom is obviously a very keen and hard-working woodworker and also keen to finish all the projects we have seen him working on. His mandolin (first instrument project) is no exception and looks fantastic. Made mostly of Tasmanian Myrtle and is finished in about 15+ coats of shellac. Now just needs to learn to play it.



Tom's mandolin

The other mandos and Ron's ukulele are at various stages, including mine. I have been otherwise busy making another full-sized xylophone and the mini one shown here, which is now being enjoyed by a couple of young girls in Scotland.



Mini xylophone

## Carving Group Report

Our Club's Carving Group met on the 1st and 15th during the month with an extra session planned for the 5th Friday in the month being the 29th. Hank has continued in full production mode with his hand-held sculptures switching to Huon pine as his chosen material. He is starting to lose track of the no. he has carved; he thinks around the 120 mark to date! Steve worked on a small wooden figurine / gnome patiently working on a full set of whiskers on the piece. Bernie continued on his jewellery box focusing his energies on a relief Celtic weave pattern for both the front and back pieces of the box. Kevin spent his time further refining his lovely relief carving of a floral and birds' scene. We also welcomed Peter Gannon who has joined our carving crew with his first energies spent on a wooden spoon from Huon pine. I finished off my serving set consisting of a spoon and fork from Huon pine and commenced the 11th piece of my long-term nativity figures set, this time working on a shepherd. We also had some pleasant visits during the month meeting 'Rufus', Maike's new puppy who has her out of action with the carving group for a little time. Also, we most pleased to share a coffee and chat with Alwyn who dropped to see us.

Rod Gorfine on behalf of the carving group.

## Turning Group

The Turning Group had a productive month. Tom turned 2 pot pourri bowls using blackwood) together with preparing a number of pen blanks for future turning. Graham continued with his chess pieces making a bishop and king at our sessions. He also had some help from Tom in turning a 'frog mouth' bowl, one of the latter's specialities. Eric worked on an oil diffuser out of banksia plus an interesting mid-sized lidded bowl out of both river red gum for the bowl and blackwood wattle for the lid. Peter turned a beaut mallet to use at carving sessions. I busied myself with turning a small bowl and having a go at a couple of candlestick holders plus a half-finished bark edged bowl from Osage orange.

Rod Gorfine on behalf of the Thursday Turners



## IAN PULLEN'S 70th birthday.

For those who would remember our dear past member "Ian Pullen" it was my pleasure to be invited to his 70th birthday party recently. Ian who is not enjoying the best of health and his wife Patsy had a celebration recently at Carlucci's Restaurant in Templestowe and a couple of his old fellow woodworkers were asked to come along.

A bit of history for those who didn't know Ian. Ian was an excellent member who made a lot of toys etc. he was also very much a hands-on person when it came to the dolls houses that we made as one of the prizes for our annual exhibition. His skills were amazing with the fine detail that he put into these dolls' houses considering the physical handicap that he has.

David Green



## Timber Request (red ironbark)

Dear fellow EDWC members,

I'm planning on making an Adirondak chair for a friend's 50<sup>th</sup> birthday using some reclaimed red ironbark flooring that I've had lying around for years. I'm going to use this [Popular Woodworking plan](#), however I require some wider timber for a few of the components. I could join some boards together; however my preference would be to use single pieces of timber. The components in question are detailed in the table below:

Quantity	Item	Thickness (mm)	Width (mm)	Length (mm)
2	Side members	19	140	883
1	Lower rear crosspiece	19	140	559

I wonder – do you have some red ironbark of suitable dimensions that I could buy to make these components? If so, then please drop me an email ([paul@paulwaite.com.au](mailto:paul@paulwaite.com.au)) or send me a SMS (0437 425 876) and we can have a chat.

cheers

Paul

## 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.

- Timbecon                A discount is offered but you will need a note on Club letterhead from Colin.

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:**

4 October	General Meeting
18 October	Committee Meeting
9-12 November	Exhibition (Thursday set-up)

## **WORKSHOP SCHEDULE:**

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
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<p>Second Sunday <b>Scrollsaw</b> 9.00 – 4.00pm Steve Mitchener 0409 003 487</p> <p>Fourth Sunday <b>Pyrography</b> 9.00am – 4.00pm Steve Mitchener 0409 003 487</p>	<p>Every Monday <b>Mentoring</b> 9.30am-11.30pm Charlie Camera 0413481699 Hamish Hill 0428 577 878</p> <p>Second and Fourth Monday Skills, Techniques and Safety Session 1.00-2.00 Hamish Hill 0428 577 878</p>	<p>Every Tuesday <b>Open Workshop</b> 9.00am-12.30pm Colin Groves 0417 563 699</p> <p>Second &amp; Fourth Tuesday <b>Instrument Group</b> 1.00pm – 4.00pm Frank Camera 0427 964 245</p> <p>Every Tuesday <b>Open Workshop</b> 6.30pm-8.00pm Peter Davey <b>NOTE: you must text or ring Peter by midday the previous day on 0421544115 if you want to attend this session</b></p>	<p>Every Wednesday Wes' Exhibition Toy Workshop 9.30-12.30 Wes Weight 0478 021 269</p> <p>First Wednesday <b>General Meeting</b> 7.30pm @ the club rooms</p> <p>Third Wednesday <b>Committee Meeting</b> 7.30pm @ the club rooms</p>	<p>Every Thursday <b>Open Workshop</b> 9.00am-1.00pm Paul Ruston 0417 017 347</p> <p>Sylvester Konieczny 0407 009 951</p> <p>Every Thursday <b>Turning</b> 1.00pm – 4.00pm Rod Gorfine 0418 108 551</p>	<p>First and Third <b>Carving</b> 9.00am-3.00pm Rod Gorfine 0418 108 551</p>	<p>First Saturday <b>Open Workshop</b> 8.30am-12.00pm Aurora Messina 0401 866 859</p> <p>Second &amp; Fourth Saturdays <b>Open Workshop</b> 9.00-12.00 Toby Grant 0488 994 741</p> <p>Colin Groves 0417 563 699</p> <p>Fifth Saturday <b>Open Workshop</b> 9.00-12.00 Colin Groves 0417 563 699</p>
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