

ELTHAM AND DISTRICT WOODWORKERS CLUB

The Eltham Woodworker
CLUB NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2022



Reg. Number A0025947P



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All correspondence to be addressed to the Secretary, P.O. Box 701, Eltham, 3095 or email secretary@elthamwoodworkers.org.au

President's Report - John Brownrigg

Hello all on this cold and wintry day.

Sadly, the general meeting of the Club scheduled and advertised for today (June 5th) did not progress as planned. We could not provide the quorum required to address the special resolution proposal nor the general business of the Club.

A few of us turned up, but despite the copious amount of advertising sent out, not many responded to announce either non-attendance or to provide a proxy.

Both Jane Hammett and Yvonne Camera baked to spoil us and to ensure that we didn't fade away from the exhaustive Club business, not to mention putting out and packing away all if the chairs.

Perhaps Covid has had a greater effect on the community than we expected, with many maintaining an insular existence, rather than pursuing normal interests.

So be it. It has been suggested that we maintain the Sunday meeting times in perpetuity as it seems to suit most people from the various age groups which define us, but you wouldn't have picked that today. I like that idea. It has also been suggested that in winter, a general meeting once every 2 or 3 months may be sufficient, given that internal Club communications have never been more efficient. The possibility of management of the Club with announcements via the newsletter and

email looks do-able if that's what the membership want. I'll propose a survey to gauge current sentiment.

Have a think about what you want from your Club going forward and what sort of input you might provide, if any. Personally, I like people and enjoy mixing with the Club members. It becomes difficult to see how we might successfully run the usual exhibitions without strong member involvement.

The Committee will continue to manage the affairs of the Club but we will need some commitments from the membership, at least once to approve the special resolution and on an ongoing basis perhaps while we restructure how the Club runs, what facilities it might need and what the future might look like. So, we'll call a general meeting for July as normal on the first Sunday afternoon at 2:00pm at the Club. We will request notification from each member of non-attendance or provision of a proxy. Your commitment to your Club in some form would be the best outcome.

My thanks to Jane and Yvonne for the excellent catering, the members who braved the wind, cold and rain and those who provided proxies.

Next weekend (Sunday 12th 11:00am) there is a fair at the Christmas Hills hall where a few of our members are displaying. Might be worth a look.

Be well and safe.

Regards,
John Brownrigg 0409 145516

Around the Workshop May 2022 – Charles Camera

There seems to be a big uptick in people frequenting the workshop after a slow start following the lock downs. After chasing up a large number of unpaid subscriptions we now have just over 100 members which is about 20 fewer members from last year. This was expected after the covid lock downs and the drop will be made up quickly based on new member enquiries.

A good measure of the return to normal attendances is the amount of dust we are collecting from our dust extractor which at long last seems to be performing smoothly. One matter to mention however is that the shakers are not always being activated at start up and shutdown. This is required to remove the fine dust that coats the filter bags, which if not shaken off, will eventually blind them which reduces airflow. A note is attached to the starter box as a reminder. The green bin now has some bag liners that go inside it and are folded down over the edge before fitting to the tower. This is proving very successful in making it easier to remove the sawdust – please be careful when reinserting the bin to prevent damage to the liners- Thanks to Lorraine Kruger who provided the sail cloth and Aurora Messina who sewed them up.

At the time of writing the drum sander which having been put into operation is now out of service. As has been repeatedly stated, it is a very delicate machine and extreme care is required to ensure that it is not damaged in operation. It has however come to pass that both drums have been stripped of their sanding medium just one day after one of the drums had been relined. Each change of medium costs about \$20 per drum. The rule that no one is to operate the machine without training or without supervision by a trained operator will be strictly enforced in future.

We now have a 10 mm Festool cutter – but no 10 mm dominos. I am currently negotiating another lot of dominos from Porta Mouldings who still seem to make them but for some reason do not feature them on their website.

The 10 mm size will allow quite large timber to be simply joined which is a step up from what we have had. Another resource are the two small band saws donated to the club. They are primarily for Wes's Workshop but will be available for anyone to use for small jobs. These have been "restored" and work remarkably well. We have not yet been able to fit dust extraction to them which is actually not a problem as they are quite innocuous in use. They can also be set up and used in the new section of the workshop.

As reported last month the committee has decided to upgrade the router table to a router lift and barrel motor as the current system, whilst very good, is problematic for occasional users. The model purchased is the Jessem Masterlift 2. After installation the club will have several surplus routers including the current TRA- 001 which will be offered for sale to members.



Charles Camera - Secretary

Mentoring Monday Group

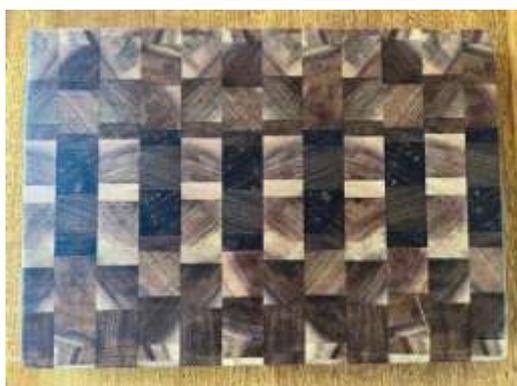
Attendance has been very good during the month with quite a range of projects progressing to completion. A new attendee and new member Sylvester Konieczny has wasted no time producing an end grain cutting board which is the second following Natalia's as shown below. Sylvester is taking his masterpiece to Poland as gift for a relative as, curiously, so is Natalia.

Peter Goddard has made good progress with his Japanese style park bench and is currently cutting mortises for floating tenons. He had intended to use multiple 10 mm tenons using our Festool machine but has now decided to go with 14 mm sizes using a home built tenoning machine and his own handmade tenons.

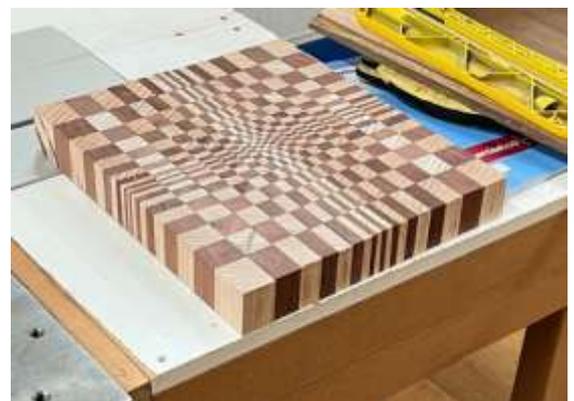
Elsewhere Ray Mizzi is still working on restoring guitars,

Pam Trento is restoring her surfboard letter box and learning new techniques and Jane Hammett is actually nearing the end of her heroic stool build. Mondays is an open workshop and all members are welcome.

And two more fine cutting boards made by relatively new member Natalia Tomalak.



The one on the left is finished and the top feels as smooth as glass, absolutely beautifully done. The spectacular looking one on the right is still work in progress but already looks great.



Charles Camera

Thursday Afternoon Turning, May – Steve Hood

Just a few photo's from the Thursday turners this month.



As you can see, Eric took quite a bit away from the demo at Eastern Turners, beautiful piece, Japanese inspired vessel in Red Gum and Cypress Pine – and a bent stick!



Rod Gorfine's bowl, a break from his ever popular twig pots, in Red Gum once more (I think, but not 100% sure) very nice shape and well finished – good one Rod



Two views of a bowl by Tom Laber, in Camphor Laurel, nice finish again by Tom, he goes to a lot of trouble sanding for an excellent finish.



Steve Hood

Editor's Show and Tell

Lucky for me Steve has had a busy few weeks so his report is a little shorter than normal, leaving room for my turning efforts. Only about 12 cm in diameter but this little bowl happens to be my very first real turning effort – thanks to a lot of advice and help from Steve and Tony Orbe on a few Thursday afternoons. The timber is from an old jarrah post and finished in Danish oil.

Frank



Carving Group: Friday 20 May 2022 - Rod Gorfine

We had a merry bunch of 5 Carvers today, with Maike away with another commitment and David Green still up North on holiday. Steve was working on yet another gnome (he loves bringing these little fellas to life in jelutong !) Jane was working on an entertainment platter for her daughter and I was starting another spoon in huon pine after scoring a little pack of it on a recent trip to Tassie.



Steve's carving box and gnome.

Also working on their projects was Alwyn and Hank and we thought we'd focus on these two fine gents in a bit more detail for this report.

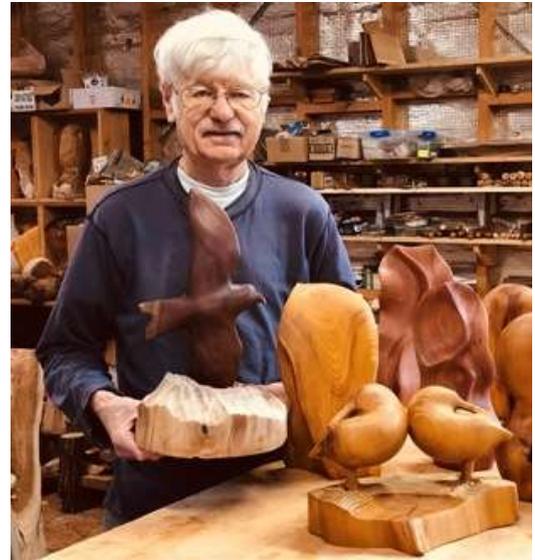


Alwyn Wainwright

time doing abstract spoons and spatulas. Most carving sessions, Hank is working on a range of spoons and together with his many 'other' projects, he keeps very busy at our club and even busier in his home workshop.

Alwyn, known to everyone across the club has been carving since about 2008 (14 years!) and has been working with wood for over 24 years. For this carving session, Alwyn had brought in his 'gargoyle' walking stick made out of king billy pine back in 2014. He is currently working on a replica 'version 2' walking stick, this time using red cedar. He was also working on a special little hook knife designed for carving spoons.

Hank Tyler who is known to many, originally from Maine USA has been carving for over 60 years and specialises in birds using mostly Brazilian rosewood and African bubinga. prefers the use of natural finishes and for the last 10 years he has focused part of his



He

Hank Tyler

Rod Gorfine

Pyrography Group Sunday 22/5/2022

It was a cool morning for Pyro, and I was there for my usual early start and to get the heaters going. Beryl was an apology due to illness, not Covid related. Maike soon joined me and worked on her new "Wombat in Australian Woodland" scene. It's a redo of one Maike did some time back, but is now shuffling the scene around and adding some extra details.

Jane Goodall joined us for a while to see what happened at Pyro, and was delighted with what she saw. Not quite ready to join us yet, but may have a crack at it in the future.

After Jane left, Maike returned to doing the background for her Duck scene, and we discussed various detailing options. I like to throw ideas around with people, offer options or alternatives. But the final decision always rests with the artist/maker.

I worked on another "Geared Box", finishing all the gears over the Box, and starting on the shading of some of them. Once the detailing is done, I will paint in the coloured background and seal it. We finished up mid-afternoon after a very productive day.

Steve Mitchener

Carving Group Friday 3rd June 2022

Hank was working on a wide variety of butter knives of varying sizes and shapes. He also tackled a large round spoon in American Walnut, which will look awesome once it's finished, the grain is spectacular.

Alwyn joined us and started on another handle for a walking stick. Then Jane and Kevin Sevoir joined us. Kevin was a new interest, and I had brought along some blanks to do a little whittling as an introduction to Carving. Jane was interested in having a go too, and as I had several blanks, we three sat around and started to whittle a little face. As I had done several variations of them, we were soon working on three very different faces.

Then David Green joined us and announced he was going to carve a "Mobius Strip". He soon discovered it was not as easy as he thought, so we spent some time considering options on how to go about it. Dave managed to get some preliminary work done, but then decided to take it home and try in a different way to a working model.

Jane, Kevin, Hank and I worked along till mid afternoon on our various projects. Hank made quite a bit of sawdust, but managed to have quite a bit of success. My two novice whittlers turned out some distinguishable faces, and were keen to pursue this line of Carving. So I'm off home to make some more blanks for the next Carving session.

Steve Mitchener



Some nice carving by a new club member Russell Shepherd (Picture from the club facebook group page – hope he doesn't mind but I needed something to fill this space.) Russell's comment: "Stuck at home recently. Finished one spoon and roughed out another. Both out of Pear" (Ed. Frank)

PS: The Ballarat Woodworkers Guild is scheduled to hold their annual event at the Ballarat Showgrounds, 702 Creswick Road, Ballarat, on Saturday the 10th and Sunday the 11th September. Hours are 9.00 am to 5.00 pm on Saturday, and 10.00 am to 4.00 pm on Sunday. All welcome.

Steve.

Visit to Eastern Turners – Steve Hood

Following an open invitation from Eastern Woodturners - <https://www.easternwoodturners.club/> - Eric and I ventured up to the wilds of Wandin North for a Deep Hollowing demonstration by Paul Barton - https://www.instagram.com/paulbarton_woodartist/ - well not actually the wilds. This was my fourth visit there, having been to a demo and a hands on with Giulio Marcolongo and a demo by Stephen Hughes. Eastern are located in the grounds of beautiful, especially now in Autumn, Mont DeLancy - <https://www.montdelancey.org.au> -. Well worth a visit, have a snack in the Two Peas in a Pod café and see a working blacksmith most Saturdays. I don't think either the turners or the Vintage Machinery folk are there all the time, but you never know your luck in the big city, at least take a look at the Mont DeLancy website, a very nice spot for a day out with the family.

Anyway enough of the travelogue, we were made very welcome by Charlie, the club Pres, and all the members were friendly and welcoming, very nice workshop - plenty of lathes that they don't have to wheel out of the way!!! Everything a turner could want. Plenty of tea and coffee, excellent cakes and slices for smoko, PLUS the best sausage sizzle in the Yarra Valley, or so I'm told. AND you get to sit on your bum and watch an excellent turner show you some of his tricks.



Paul started the demo at around 9 with a Red Gum and Cypress Pine, Japanese inspired vase/box type of thing, hollowed to around 4mm thick. It must have taken all of an hour from go to whoa, a really nice little pot. I'm sure there'll be a few of those kicking around the club soon.

Paul then moved on to a hollow form in the shape of, well I don't actually know what it's a shape of, but it's a nice shape, from Black Wattle. First the outside was turned, then, outside to the wood pile and the log splitter prior to the hollowing out. I've heard of similar techniques, and a log splitter seemed a bit brutal, but.....it worked.



Now you can see why no one lets me use the camera, too busy watching to take good photo's!



Above: Before the axeman.

After all the damage is done. That's it in there between the two logs.





Then it's back onto the lathe to hollow each half of the now easily accessible, inside.

Then you just put it back together!

How easy is that? Not very!



And the finished article "A Hollow Form in Black Wattle" with Paul explaining some of the finer points of design.

With the kinds of locally available timber, red and yellow box etc., and how easily it splits when drying, I'd be very surprised if you don't see some of this kind of work from Eric or me in the coming months. Very interesting and surprising technique, plus you get to use a log splitter without doing your back in, that's a novelty these days.



Finally (as in, up last, not glad that other stuffs over) an actual deep hollow in Italian Buckthorn, using a Vermec Hollowing rig (beauty more tools to buy!) and the Sorby scraper with an arm rest, you can see that in the first photo, previous page.



This was hollowed through the deep cleft in the log you can see in the photo above left, giving a live edge look to the form. After a considerable amount of effort, when he had the thickness down to around the 1~2mm mark, while finishing off the foot he had a catch in one of the knots and blew out the bottom, as Paul said "sometimes you just have to walk away" he did finish it though.



As usual I didn't take enough pics of his other work, I was fascinated by this bowl though, I forgot to ask about the wood but I think it's a local (to him) Eucalypt, it's turned green to about 3mm, coloured with food dye and Pyrographed on the outside, AND - I won it in the raffle!

Eric and I had a great day at Eastern Woodturners, learned a lot, met a bunch of great people, so thanks to everyone at Eastern for the invitation and the generous welcome. We'll definitely be back.

Steve Hood



Steam bending wood – Jim Stockton

At a recent workshop I spoke with enthusiasm about bending wood using steam. I'm sure it all sounded like Greek to my fellow members so here are some examples.



I built my first sled because of a lifelong fascination with the Scandinavian exploration of the Arctic and the Antarctic. It promptly led to commissions to make more.

The sled in the first photo was for racing, so it was built as light as possible. It's so light that a single springer spaniel was able to tow the sled

with a small woman around a race course and my recollection is that she won the race. The steam bent bits include the handle bar, the skids, the upper rail and the bow at the front. All of the joints in the sled were hand cut mortice and tenon joints and all of them meet at different angles. The joints are held in place by lashings which provide the flexibility needed to allow the sled to flex and recover as it moves over rough terrain. Historically the lashings were made of leather but now we use nylon venetian blind cord.





The sled in the last two photos was made for commercial dog sled rides in the high country of Victoria and the same pieces were steam bent. It's heavier to be able to take the loads. On this day eight huskies were pulling two people. This sled did about 10 years of service before it came in for repairs. Not bad for a bit of woodwork bashing over the Victorian Alps.

It's amazing what you can end up doing when your hobby is woodwork...



Jim Stockton

[Chris Wynn's new guitar school in the south of France – Charles Camera](#)

Chris Wynn a noted maker of fine guitars is well known to many of our members, especially those interested in making musical instruments. Many will also remember the excellent talk he gave at one of meetings quite some years ago. Chris once had a guitar making workshop and school at Monsalvat and also took students on overseas study tours where he also conducted workshops. For those fortunate enough to take part, destinations such as the North of Italy and the South of France, were an annual event.

Ted Clohesy, a former member of the EDWC, has recently returned from a visit to Chris's latest venture which is a permanent school in the south of France at Saint-Salvadou. This is a small rural village with less than 500 locals and according to Ted would be the most ideal place to stay at for a tranquil get away holiday. Ted showed me some photos of the building he has purchased and the surrounding town which are really enchanting and which prompted me to share them and the story. In looking at the photos I was reminded of the very popular BBC 4 TV show "Escape to the chateau" where a British couple bought a derelict chateau in a region not that far away from Chris's and turned it into a very successful wedding destination. The herculean task of renovation is the story - https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Escape_to_the_Chateau

Ted assures me that the task facing Chris Wynn is not as dire as that of the chateau, as the building last used as a boarding school in the 1950's, is in rather good condition although it had seventy years of "rubbish" to be cleared out.. In the first picture the rectangular section jutting out is four stories high and includes an underground cellar. The topmost floor is the old student dormitory and the central floor is divided into four classrooms. The tower in the section in the middle features a pigeon loft from which Ted says, "affords an amazing vista for anyone game to venture up there".



The school on the left and the partially renovated barn which is Chris's current home.

Chris cleaning out decades of dust to ready the section for the workshop.



Chris checking out acoustics in the almost ready workshop.

Another view of the building with the sun setting in the background.



Here is some of Chris's amazing work.



Club Market Place

For sale: One large King Billy pine slab 2 m long, 350 mm wide and 40 mm thick beautiful and rare fine timber. \$400

Contact: Russell Wanklyn on 0413 809 401



EDWC CLUB Workshop / Meeting Calendar:

EDWC Calendar 2022		June		Active 01/06/2022		
Sunday 29th May	Monday 30th May	Tuesday 31st May	Wednesday 1st June	Thursday 2nd June	Friday 3rd June	Saturday 4th June
			Wes's Workshop 9:00am - 12:00pm Wes Weight	Open Workshop 9:00am - 1:00pm TBA Turning 1:00 - 4:00pm Tony Orbe	Carving 9:00am - 5:00pm Alwyn Wainwright	
Scroll Saw 9:30 am - 4:00pm Steve Mitchener	Mentoring Charlie Camera 9:30 - 11:30 am TBA	Open Workshop 9:00am - 1:30 pm Colin Groves Instrument Group 1:00 - 4:00pm Frank Camera Turning 5:30 - 8:00pm Brian Blethyn Open Workshop 6:30- 8:00pm	Wes's Workshop 9:00am - 12:00pm Wes Weight	Open Workshop 9:00am - 1:00 pm TBA Turning 1:00 - 4:00pm Tony Orbe		Open Workshop 9:00am - 1:00 pm Toby Grant Colin Groves
	Mentoring Charlie Camera 9:30 - 11:30 am TBA	Open Workshop 9:00am - 1:30 pm Colin Groves Instrument Group 1:00 - 4:00pm Frank Camera	Wes's Workshop 9:00am - 12:00pm Wes Weight	Open Workshop 9:00am - 1:00 pm Paul Rushton Turning 1:00 - 4:00pm Tony Orbe	Carving 9:00am - 5:00pm Alwyn Wainwright	Box Making 9:30 - 1:00pm John Brownrigg
Pyrography 9:30am - 4:00pm Steve Mitchener	Mentoring Charlie Camera 9:30 - 11:30 am	Open Workshop 9:00am - 1:30 pm Colin Groves Instrument Group 1:00 - 4:00pm Frank Camera Turning 5:30 - 8:00pm Brian Blethyn Open Workshop 6:30- 8:00pm	Wes's Workshop 9:00am - 12:00pm Wes Weight Exhibition Comm Adrian DesFontaines	Open Workshop 9:00am - 1:00 pm Paul Rushton Turning 1:00 - 4:00pm Tony Orbe		Open Workshop 9:00am - 1:00 pm Colin Groves Toby Grant
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Newsletter Contributions

Thank you to: John Brownrigg, Charles Camera, Steve Hood, Jim Stockton, Jane Hammett, Steve Mitchener and Rod Gorfine.

All group leaders and individual members may contribute to the newsletter with any relevant monthly group report or items of interest to the club. Please make them brief and include photos where appropriate.

Show and tell items and Sale items are welcome, with pictures if possible.

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