

# *The Eltham Woodworker*

## CLUB NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2021



### EDWC Office Bearers

President	Vice President	Secretary	Treasurer
John Brownrigg	David Brooks	Charles Camera	Peter Davey
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### Board Members

Raman Rao	Aurora Messina
Colin Groves	Adrian Desfontaines

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All correspondence to be addressed to the Secretary, P.O. Box 701, Eltham, 3095 or email [secretary@elthamwoodworkers.org.au](mailto:secretary@elthamwoodworkers.org.au)

## President's Report - John Brownrigg

Hello All,

I trust that you all remain well and are staying safe.

Today (Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> December) we had our first general meeting for a while, with updates on ongoing projects and planning. It seems like forever since we were last able to meet and discuss Club progress, and the member attendance at the meeting was strong, with most members staying for a BBQ.

So, a sausage sizzle after the meeting proved to be a good choice, the purpose being to get all us back into Club usage and attendance and feeling a bit more comfortable to be "out of the house". It was great to see so many of our colleagues and to meet some of the new faces at EDWC.

We hope that 2022 will be a little closer to normal, allowing exhibitions and community work to function at the levels we are used to.

Once the festive season is behind us we'll be back to running general meetings as normal, with guest speakers and raffles etc.

As always, if you have queries or wish to volunteer for some task, speak to a member of the committee or a group organiser.

I'll attend for box making next Saturday, which will be the last box session for the year. We will advise of calendar changes via email or snail mail once we finalize plans.

My thanks to all who assisted today, your efforts made the day work well. I do, of course, offer special thanks to the artisanal onion slicers. You know who you are!

My best wishes to all for a safe and happy festive season.

Regards,  
John Brownrigg

## Around the workshop December 2021 – Charles Camera

There is a good chance that we may soon have an extension to the club house that will enable us to have more social interactions separate from woodwork activities. These days we achieve extensions and equipment purchases by seeking grants through our Council, the Men's Shed Associations, State and Federal Governments and various supporters such as the Bendigo Bank. There was a time however when it was all hands on deck and do it yourself as per the activity captured here when members built the bandsaw room extension by closing in the old veranda. Barry McDonald has written a personal account that is featured below, which reinforces just how easy we get it these days!!



In other ways we still however have hard working members that get things done. Brian Blethyn recently erected a fine colorbond fence around the dust extractor. Brian welded the frames and fitted the panels at home after taking careful measurements then transported them to the site and erected it all with millimetre accuracy. (Check out the fit next time you have the chance !!). Well done Brian and thanks from all us for the hard work and the donation of some of the materials.



Then there is also always a great deal of maintenance work to be done in keeping our club house running. This includes mowing the grass outside which is our responsibility.



A big thanks to Toby Grant and Peter Goddard who expended a great deal of sweat to do just that most recently. Peter is shown in the photo on the next page but at another time Toby also sweated it out to finish the front areas.





So where is the much awaited Double Drum Sander? After placing the order, it was picked up by the delivery company on the 15th November .....and as of today it is still in transit. That is it is taking more than a month to move just 10 or so Km. And, you would not believe it, but the excuse is COVID. When it arrives we have everything ready for commissioning, and unlike the old system our new dust extractor will enable it's operation with hopefully little to no dust pollution. **On the subject of the old dust extractor, the club is now looking for a new home for the old units. One of them has a single phase motor and can be reinstalled in a home workshop fairly easily – especially as the much of the conduit can be taken with it. Expression of interest are invited from members and whilst assistance will be provided, the lucky new owner will have to do the dismantling and removal. Anyone interested please contact me to**

**discuss making an offer.**

**Charles Camera**

## Early Workshop Development – Barry McDonald

Following the recent addition of the large wood turning and facilities room to our club rooms, our workshop now has lots of room and improved functionality. But it was not always so. The building started life as the residence of the headmaster of Yan Yean Primary school. Following considerable lobbying by the early leaders of the club, the council made the building available for use as our club rooms. Previously the Club had operated at a number of temporary locations around Eltham. It was shifted to its present location, pretty much in its original condition. Club members at the time knocked out a few walls and it has satisfied the Clubs needs ever since; but space became an issue as we grew.



So some time in the early 2000's the suggestion was made to whack a room on the front by filling in the space where a verandah originally existed. The plan was to do the work ourselves, using the skills and experience of members, and to provide the opportunity for members to participate in the building project. To do it of course, we needed approval by the Council, and that proved to be a larger and more protracted exercise than the building work itself. If we were to modify the building at all we needed to conform to building disability guidelines, which meant making sure access and egress was appropriate, as was the size and accessibility of the toilet. Which meant of

course the original plan to just whack a room on the front had expanded. We had to whack the toilet down and build a new one as well. Nevertheless, all Council requirements were met, including acquiring engineering plans and specifications, obtaining a builder to quote building work, supervise the structural work, and to provide the necessary insurance. Plumbing and electrical work was outsourced.

We had in the Club at the time, as we do now, some very skilful, experienced and motivated operators. Our Club mentors at the time provided the guidance necessary. Max Jensen, who sadly is no longer with us, Barry Lay who has been invaluable to the Club for many years, Graeme Deany who has a long history in the building industry, add to those the general woodworking skills of many of our members, all combined to

achieve what we set out to do. Graeme also facilitated the acquisition of Colin Belmore of Diamond Property Developments to supervise the work. His participation was invaluable.



Of course, to whack rooms up or down you need a number of whackers, and as has been shown throughout the history of the Club, volunteered participation was not a problem. The following photos reflect some of that and display the participation in working bees we conducted throughout the project.

It was not without its problems:

At the outset, Barry Vaughan asked the obvious question; is there asbestos in the building? Of course there was! So that meant the toilet demolition needed to be done by a qualified

company. The walls were demolished, asbestos removed and the remaining building site treated before we could even enter the building let alone start the work.

Before preparing to lay the floor for the new room at the front we needed to lower the ground to allow for a 400mm clearance between the ground and the floor joists. This presented a major task to members with a few shovels and a couple of rakes, so our builder referred us to a machine operator who turned up with 20 tonne truck complete with front end scraper.

Wouldn't have taken him more than five minutes. Payment – a slab of VB!

We needed to dig 15 stump holes. The local Diamond Creek hire company had provided us with a motorised post hole digger free of charge. Half way through the first hole the thing broke down, so all the holes were dug by hand. After spending all day digging them and retiring proud of a job well done, a massive rain storm occurred overnight and filled every one of them with water. That needed to be bucketed out before any further progress could be made.



Even with these minor issues, in 2008, the whole project was completed successfully. It provided a lot of fun along the way, as well as providing the opportunity for members to gain some experience in things like framing, setting windows, fixing weather boards, plastering, tiling, and generally participating in a team effort. The project was undertaken within the prevailing philosophy of the Club at the time; to provide the membership with opportunities to learn, participate, and to own the process, as well as to complete the development within cost constraints which were reasonably tight at the time. If the project had been totally outsourced, the builders quote was \$47,201. The work was completed for \$12,256.94 being the cost of material and outsourced tradesmen. The value of the “in kind” work, ie. Labour provided by club volunteers was estimated at \$16,700. After we made a request to the Council for some financial assistance in conforming to disability guidelines, they did provide \$2,200 being half the material cost of the toilet. Direct cost to the Club therefore was around \$10,000.

Not a huge project by any measure, but a very worthwhile one.

[Barry McDonald, One of the whackers.](#)



## Turning a boat – Jim Stockton

**(No Steve – not on a lathe!! - editor)**

I had to turn over a boat that weighs about 200kg for painting but the usual place where I rent space didn't have room just now and I wanted to get the boat ready for a holiday.

It turned out to be quite easy and, like many things about boats, getting ready took much longer than the actual turning.

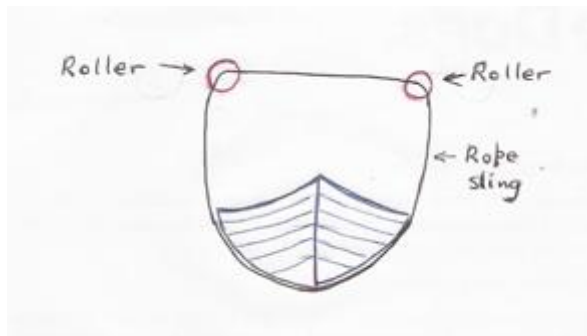
An article in a boat magazine provided the idea for some quick and dirty rollers made with wood for the sheave, plywood for the flanges on the sides of the sheaves and some steel. The central pin is 12mm diameter steel and the horseshoe shaped hanger is 3mm X 32mm steel, bent to shape by hand. The result is incredibly strong and the big flanges on the sides of the sheaves keep the rope nicely aligned.



I used eight rollers to set up four slings, as shown in the sketch.



I then used another sling with a chain hoist on one side and 6:1 rope purchase on the other to lift the boat. Once the boat is clear of the floor it's easy to rotate the boat in the slings.



All the materials came from my off cuts pile, and the sheave was turned on a lathe at EDWC. Now to paint the bloody thing!

**Jim Stockton**



## Thursday Arvo Turning – for the month of NOVEMBER – FINALLY back in the clubrooms

We're back! With all the usual suspects with the exception of Chris who has sensibly decided that, as it's so close to Xmas that she'll re-start in January, good idea. We welcome Jane Goodall and Paul Rushton to the Thursday afternoon turning group. Jane's picking it up pretty well and I'm looking forward to seeing what she'll be making when she gets the hang of it. Paul has a lathe at home and has been using Charlie's Tungsten Carbide scrapers for the last few years and has decided that he'd like to give chisels a go, that appears to be working well for him. Rod's finished a nice potpourri bowl in Blackwood I think. Tom's been working on a Redgum bowl, Eric's put some work into a vase and Russell has completed the last of a pair of French rolling pins as gifts. Unfortunately I once again neglected to get photo's of Eric, Russell & Tom's work.



Jane Goodall under Tony's eagle eye and also making some adjustments to her tool rest.



Rod's potpourri bowl.



We also had a demonstration on pewter pouring the rim of a bowl unfortunately I didn't realize that the pewter cools too quickly to flow around the rim of a large bowl so it was less than successful, it only really works on bowls around 100mm diameter or smaller, for larger bowls you need Milliput, a 2 part coloured epoxy putty or resin, which we'll have a go at early next year.

**Just a reminder:** Saturday Beginners Turning is intended for members who are unable to attend Thursday afternoon training sessions. It is intended that Saturday training only be held intermittently when there are four beginners who are only able to attend on Saturdays and will cease when they are able to use a lathe safely.

Subsequently lathes will be available to these, or any suitably trained members, to be used during open workshops and if any additional help is needed it will be available to members who are unable to attend normal turning sessions, on an 'Ad Hoc' basis by arrangement with a proficient turner (or as proficient as the current crop of trainers are).



All people wishing to be trained in lathe safety, operation and basic skills will need to first complete the mandatory club safety training with special attention to the use of the Sliding Compound Mitre Saw, Table Saw and the Band Saw as these will be used occasionally under minimum supervision and you must be proficient in their use. Supervision is there on turning days but it's not our intention or role to train in the use of these saws, only the recognised club trainers will be doing that.

If you wish to be trained on a lathe, the club has a selection of good lathes and tools, please contact Tony Orbe prior to attending a session as there is some information you need to familiarise yourself with prior to your first lesson.

If you wish you can 'drop in' on a Thursday afternoon for a look see but you won't be turning, plenty of chatting is available though.

#### Thursday Turning Dates

Last Thursday Turning for this year will be 9<sup>th</sup> December 2021.

Re- Start 13<sup>th</sup> January 2022.

Saturday beginners will be contacted to arrange an acceptable time.

Steve Hood

#### Scroll Sawing – for the month of DECEMBER

Sadly I couldn't make it to scroll sawing. I believe Steve and Tony were there but I don't know if anyone else made it or not. I did hear from Steve and its all go for next year. The club has 3 or 4 good scroll saws so if you'd like to give it a try come along in the new year and see if you like it.

Steve Hood

#### St Andrews Mens Shed Band Saw Mill Update.

The mill is able to cut a maximum of 700mm with 900mm between the supports. This means that any tree bigger than 850mm probably won't fit and will then have to be sawn to a 700mm square before it can be slabbed.

**Special Project – Steve Hood** A couple of months ago Charles put out a request to the club turners for a gent that needed a bit of turning done. I woodied into the job, he was looking for some stoppers or bungs for large blue plastic barrels and wanted 'a few'! After a couple of chats on the phone where I suggested



I needed a metre of 190x45 pine that I could cut to length and glue together to turn his stoppers from, he rocked up with 4 lengths of 200x200 cypress pine. Not quite what I asked for but – think of the off cuts – I can make that work.





The timber was too big for me to handle so I had to lay it down, drag it outside and cut it to length with a chain saw, then buzz off a strip 5mm deep to fit in my band saw, cut it to



150mm square then cut the corners off to make an octagon.

I made up some templates to give me the maximum and minimum diameters and the outside shape and commenced to turning. They took roughly 40 minutes each and after turning 24 of them I had 4 green wheelie bins full of chips. As the Cypress Pine was still pretty damp I kept them covered in the chips and gave them to client in a big bag of chips so they didn't dry out too quickly. He seemed pretty happy with them and he hasn't called back to complain so all must be OK.



Steve Hood

## Carving Group report

In all there were seven members of the carving group enjoying a very relaxing social morning at the club in the Friday session. Three abstract forms brought along by Hank in osage orange needed a lot of sanding. Maiké's mermaid is just about finished – a nice piece of sculpture.

Ron's Nativity Scene wise man is nearly finished - just in time for Christmas. Jane's platypus is now finished but needs to be darker. She is working on it. David's wood knot nearly is completed.

Johnny Lay arrived with a thin osage orange stick and spent the morning de barking it.

Great to get together again after a long break. It was a very enjoyable morning.

Yours in Woodwork, Alwyn



## Bee Hotel – David Green

I was asked some time ago to make a “Bee Hotel” for a local pre-school. Like everyone else, because of lockdown I couldn’t get timber etc so this item became very drawn out. On Monday (29th November) I was finally able to deliver and install the finished item to the Apollo Park Pre School. They were thrilled and we had plenty of help from the children. It is very solid and has been concreted into the ground.

I have cut a lot of small logs and drilled holes in them for the bees to nest (these are not in the photo). To make it a bit more interesting I have secured a couple of bricks and other things. The children will fill the remaining areas with sticks, bamboo etc. This will be an ongoing project for them.

You may notice in the picture there is a pitched roof, the wood beneath this is one of the large blocks that we had at the club. I took this and cut it diagonally butted the two halves together then drilled holes in it so the bees can nest there also. All of the structure is Cypress Pine purchased from Fair Wood Ceres in Preston. This is a new supplier that Charlie mentioned in a newsletter recently, they are excellent, if you haven’t been down there yet may I suggest you should do so.



A very satisfying project, David Green

## Stitch and Glue Boat Building – Jim Stockton

A while ago I saw an article on line about the “Stitch and Glue” boat building method which is supposed to be a quick and simple way of building small boats. I sent the article to Jim Stockton for his take on it. The following is Jim’s very interesting reply. (Frank Camera)

Compared to other ways to make boats, stitch and glue gets you to a boat shape quickly, that is, you cut out the panels and pull them together with copper wire or electrician’s cable ties. However, from then on there is a lot of epoxy work and sanding. A local professional boat builder, Nick Atkin, who is more time conscious than I am, says that stitch and glue takes just as long as other methods.

As they say in the cooking shows, here’s one I prepared earlier.



I think your readers would probably get more satisfaction

making a skin on frame kayak because there is more woodwork. The framework consists of either steam bent ribs or cross-sections of plywood and long stringers running the length of the kayak. Here’s one with steam bent ribs. Lots of mortise and tenon and doweled joints in these boats.

by





I've attached a description of one with plywood cross-sections that I made as a prototype before making a folding kayak.

Regards, Jim

## Skin on frame kayaks

Designer: Tom Yost  
Builder: Jim Stockton  
Built: 2019

With a length of 4.6m and width of 0.51m, this white kayak was built to test the design for stability and handling before committing to the cost of the materials for a folding kayak. The prototype has wood frame with a polyester skin, and its working name is *Wrinkly*. You can see why in the photograph.



The final version was longer at 5.3m and wider at 0.56m, has an aluminium frame that can be dismantled, a PVC skin that can be rolled up, and everything packed into two bags.



## Show and Tell – Tom Laber



I was walking past the back of Bunnings the other day and saw an interesting used pallet, well it went straight into the boot and thanks to a piece of camphor laurel I had lying around my Xmas present for a friend was done.







Two hours work and a \$23 dollar blank from Pops shed is a very cheap present that is easy to make. I have no idea what the pallet wood is but it's much nicer than pine ☐.

Cheers Tom

## Club Market Place



40L 2.5HP compressor, FREE. Works fine,

Contact Peter Davey 0421 544 115

## Colin Groves' TOMATO SAUCE Recipe

At the club BBQ last Sunday several people were so taken by Colin's homemade tomato sauce he had brought along that they asked him for the recipe. Well here it is:

7.5 kg Tomatoes

1.5 kg sugar

800ml malt vinegar

30 grams cloves

4 level teaspoons salt

3 cloves garlic

3 quarters teaspoon cayenne pepper

Boil all together for three hours, stirring often.

Vitamise and return to boil for five minutes.

Bottle while hot. Seal when cold.



ELTHAM & DISTRICT WOODWORKERS Inc.

Minutes of the Members meeting held on December 12th at the clubhouse Yarrambat at 11:30 AM

Apologies:- Nil

Visitors:- Nil

**Minutes:-** The last meeting did not have a quorum and minutes were not read.

**Treasurers Report** for the months of April to November were presented by P. Davey and seconded by J. Brownrigg

**Correspondence in** – C. Camera stated that correspondence included communication with VMSA and Council regarding covid restrictions, applications for membership, various public enquiries regarding work or offering wood and regular bulletins from associate clubs, regulatory authorities and general day to day communications. All associated actions and distribution of correspondence completed and there are no reportable matters.

**Correspondence out** - various as above no outstanding reportable matters.

General Business:-

J. Brownrigg expressed thanks on behalf of members to B. Blethyn who constructed and erected the fence around the dust extractor which included some materials that he donated.

A. Desfontaines outlined various matters before the futures group that included ongoing negotiations with council re a possible kitchen extension and the delayed delivery of the double drum sander.

Electronic access to the club is being considered by the futures group that may include security surveillance.

J. Brownrigg again asked that more members volunteer to be “Key Holders” to ease the issues that dog reliable opening up of the workshop especially on Thursdays and Saturdays. C. Camera to again follow up recruitment.

Members requested to follow up welfare matters with the almoner Alwyn Wainwright .

The club's old dust extractors to be sold off and the smaller unit to be offered to members.

Request for volunteers to man the Bunnings sausage sizzle on 21<sup>st</sup> Dec.

Tree removal around the container – still no response from council.

Members asked to get involved with the regular events such as Wattle Festival, Whittlesea show , Healthability and the exhibitions after a long pause due to covid.

C. Camera to implement a safety manual for installing the new laser engraver.

G. Oliver requested that the container be painted to match the dust extractor fence.

J, Brownrigg advised that the institution of associate membership to added to the next special meeting / AGM.

Saw dust to be put out for the public to take away – only feasible way to dispose of it.

Show and Tell

Alwyn Wainwright showed a carved owl – carved from a very heavy and hard wood of unknown origin.

Geoff Oliver – showed a new design box.

Greg Snow – showed some old timber for identification.



Frank Camera showed a cutting board with striking 3D pattern and explained how it could be viewed as both intaglio and cameo by holding it at different angles.

Mark Thompson – showed an unusual guitar which he repaired and two intricately worked serving boards.

Hank Tyler – showed several carvings including a spoon in Osage Orange.

Charles camera showed several examples of engraving using the new machine.

Total attendance 41

Meeting ended at 12:38 Pm for a BBQ .



General Meeting time



Show and tell

## EDWC CLUB Workshop / Meeting Calendar:

Note - There are now scheduled openings on 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday nights for open workshop and turning run by Brian Blethyn (turning) Peter Davey and Adrian Desfontaines ( open workshop). This will advantage those who cannot turn up to daytime group meetings.

	WEEK 1	WEEK 2	WEEK 3	WEEK 4
<b>SUNDAY</b>				
9:30 - 3:30				<b>PYROGRAPHY</b> Steve Mitchener
<b>MONDAY</b>				
9:30 - 11:30	<b>MENTORING</b> Charles Camera	<b>MENTORING</b> Charles Camera	<b>MENTORING</b> Charles Camera	<b>MENTORING</b> Charles Camera
<b>TUESDAY</b>				
9:30 - 1:30	<b>OPEN WORKSHOP</b> Mark Thompson	<b>OPEN WORKSHOP</b> Mark Thompson	<b>OPEN WORKSHOP</b> Mark Thompson	<b>OPEN WORKSHOP</b> Mark Thompson
5:30 - 8:00 PM	<b>TURNING</b> Brian Blethyn		<b>TURNING</b> Brian Blethyn	
6:30 - 8:00 PM	<b>OPEN WORKSHOP</b> Peter Davey Adrian Desfontaines		<b>OPEN WORKSHOP</b> Peter Davey Adrian Desfontaines	
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>				
9:00 - 12:00	<b>WES' WORKSHOP</b> Wes Weight	<b>WES' WORKSHOP</b> Wes Weight	<b>WES' WORKSHOP</b> Wes Weight	<b>WES' WORKSHOP</b> Wes Weight
1:00 - 3:00				<b>EXHIBITION COMM.</b> Adrian Desfontaines
6:30 - 9:00			<b>COMMITTEE</b>	
<b>THURSDAY</b>				
9:00 - 1:00	<b>OPEN WORKSHOP</b> Mark Thompson	<b>OPEN WORKSHOP</b> Mark Thompson	<b>OPEN WORKSHOP</b> Mark Thompson	<b>OPEN WORKSHOP</b> Mark Thompson
1:00 -4:00 PM	<b>TURNING</b> Tony Orbe	<b>TURNING</b> Tony Orbe	<b>TURNING</b> Tony Orbe	<b>TURNING</b> Tony Orbe
<b>FRIDAY</b>				
9:00 - 12:00		<b>TURNING</b> David Cowan		<b>TURNING</b> David Cowan
9:00 - 5:00	<b>CARVING</b> Alwyn Wainwright		<b>CARVING</b> Alwyn Wainwright	
<b>SATURDAY</b>				
9:30 - 4:00	<b>SCROLL SAW</b> Steve Mitchener	<b>OPEN WORKSHOP</b> Mark Thompson	<b>BOX MAKING</b> John Brownrigg	<b>OPEN WORKSHOP</b> Mark Thompson
9:30 - 1:00				
9:30 - 1:00				
1:00 -4:00 PM		<b>BEGINNERS TURNING</b> Steve Hood		<b>BEGINNERS TURNING</b> Steve Hood



## Newsletter Contributions

Thank you to: John Brownrigg, Charles Camera, Steve Hood, Barry McDonald, Jim Stockton, Tom Laber, Alwyn Wainwright, Colin Groves and David Green.

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.

Send to: [frankco1@tpg.com.au](mailto:frankco1@tpg.com.au)

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