

Eltham and District Woodworkers Club  
*The Eltham Woodworker*  
 Club Newsletter December 2022



## Special Exhibition Edition

### EDWC Office Bearers

President	Vice President	Secretary	Treasurer
John Brownrigg	Colin Groves	Charles Camera	David Brooks
0409 145 516	0417 563 699	0413 481 699	0438 344 024

### Board Members

Raman Rao		Aurora Messina
Peter Davey	Jane Hammett	Adrian Desfontaines



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## President's December 2022

Hello all,

Good things are happening at EDWC and here are some announcements.

First, we are informed by Council that final inspection for the extension should occur during next week, so we may all have some time to make final Xmas gifts. Prior to re-opening we may need a couple of working bees to clean up, and to ensure that we have a safe workshop again. We will advise as soon as access is confirmed.

Next, we have won a grant from the Dept. of Jobs, Precincts and Regions under their Living Local Community Grant Program. The grant is to be used specifically to replace the current table saw with a safer unit, to replace the jointer and to replace the smaller of the two large bandsaws. Now that the grant is confirmed, and the funds have arrived at our bank, finalisation of the orders can begin. Clearly, we will have the older (current) units to sell, and any expressions of interest should be directed to Charlie.

### Major Sponsors and supporters



The EDWC is very grateful for the sponsorship of the Bendigo Community Bank. Please support our sponsors



The grant was suggested by the Victorian Men's Shed Association, and the Future Group under John Winkett checked and chased it to delivery. Thanks to all members of the Future Group, particularly Raman Rao. The development of safer and better facilities for members remains a target of both the Committee and the Future Group.

The Committee has decided there will be no general meeting in December, given the busy time of year, the finalisation of the extension, the post Exhibition Blues etc. Nor will there be an Xmas function for the same reasons. The time available is short and members are busy with family. Also, the Whittlesea Show Committee are opting for a mid-January combination show/Xmas celebration. We have decided it's probably too much for us to fit in. We don't know the format or any details, so for now, we pass.

While we have much to discuss, a "get together" in January has been deemed more appropriate. More solid information will follow soon.

So be well, be safe and I look forward to seeing members back in the Club rooms soon.

*Kind Regards, John B.*

## **Around the Workshop December 2022**

All activity at the workshop has still only been by the builders who have almost completed the extension. On inspection last week I was amazed at the amount of extra room that the three metres has added. There will be more than adequate room for several tables already sourced for free from the Eltham Bowling Club thanks to Frank Camera.

Our cupboards were being installed and the floor was about to receive a wet area serviceable "linoleum" cover. There will be an air conditioner and extensive soundproofing that should certainly realise the remit of having a social area for refreshments that can be used all day even when the workshop is in full use. We will have a real refrigerator and dishwasher and there is some consideration of a sandwich press like utensil so that people can make lunches when staying over midday. It appears that the interruption will have been well worth the pain in the end.



If anyone needs to make up for lost workshop time - **The committee will be arranging for the workshop to be open over the Xmas break on a reduced timetable if we can get key holders to volunteer their time.**

On another big development the club has been successful in winning a grant that will allow the purchase of a new table saw, a new jointer and a new bandsaw. The grants were promoted by the Victorian Men's Shed Association and are from the Dept. of Jobs, Precincts and Regions under their Living Local Community Grant Program.

The existing machines, although still serviceable are being replaced mainly to afford better safety, especially as regards the table saw, higher performance as regards the jointer and far better suitability for the task as regards the bandsaw. After installation all our machines will now be relatively new and top notch and hopefully will engender an even higher standard of craftsmanship in our work. **As the new machines arrive the old units will be offered for sale, first to club members and if no takers, to the general public.** If anyone is interested, please contact me to negotiate a deal.



### **Our new machines going in :**

**Our old machines going out,** the committee is researching potential sale value to the club and will negotiate with members for a fair price.

Hammer K3 Basic – three phase 3,000 Watt (4 HP).

Carbatec jointer 8" 1 1/2 HP single phase with Shellix spiral head.

Carbatec 20" bandsaw 2 HP single phase

*Charles Camera*

## **Around the Annual Exhibition 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> November 2022**

The EDWC annual exhibition is the pinnacle of our club's activity for the year and is that magic time when all the timber that was taken away from the workshop after milling reappears as works of art and craft. After an absence of two years due to Covid restrictions it was well and truly back to continue a tradition now more than twenty years long. And what a success it was from every measure including the number and quality of exhibits, value of items sold and number of visitors. The Eltham Town Festival was unfortunately cancelled because of wet weather but the drop off in visitors was barely seen. Clearly the festival is not the draw card that brings visitors as might be expected and our event really did successfully stand alone.

The lead up to the event was marked by the constant threat of cancellation when the long run of very wet weather was playing havoc with all outdoor activities in the state and in fact around the entire East Coast of Australia). The Whittlesea Show had already been cancelled the week before and the Town Fair went down next but as we were not affected by boggy ground Nillumbik allowed us to continue on.



**Views of the exhibition taken just prior to the opening on Friday night.**



The opening on Friday night 11<sup>th</sup> November was well attended by members and partners along with invited guests and dignitaries.

The Nillumbik Mayor, Councillor Frances Eyre, was there to open the event along with a bevy of local politicians including Ben Ramcharan (deputy Mayor), Vicky Ward (State member for Eltham) and Lauren Kathage (now State member for Yan Yean). The night included the awarding of the Max Jensen prize to Jane Hammett as “most improved new woodworker” and the Barry Lay award to Russell Wanklyn for the “best in show exhibit”.



**Jane Hammett’s bench stools.**



**Russell Wanklyn’s award winning bench seat.**

Nothing like this ever happens on its own and the huge task of marshalling the venue, planning the setup and organising entries required a huge effort from Adrian Defontaines who managed the show for the first time. And there too was the well-seasoned Peter Davey who as usual “pulled many rabbits out of the hat” at the last minute and the contribution from Dave Brooks, the most reliable back room guy there is anywhere. The show also went swimmingly well due to the hard work of too many members to mention individually who jumped in at every point to keep the show on the road. We also had Kim Webster and Jane Hammett direct the layout which was a great credit to them.

Wes’s workshop, was slightly down from previous years which may have reflected the loss of traffic from the cancelled Town Fair. Wes Weight and his merry men, nevertheless, had plenty of small people assembling Bee Hotels. The room also included woodworking demonstrations that had people marvelling at the skilled processes that are a hall mark of our craft. Steve Mitchener enchanted hoards of youngsters by skilfully scroll sawing letters to give away, a task which we think he can now do with his eyes firmly closed.



Peter Davey had a smooth system in play to record the exhibits, print labels and manage EFT payments using three terminals. The EFT terminals were an experiment several exhibitions back but amazingly at this event nearly all exhibition sales and most Sales Table sales were by card and would not have been so successful on a cash only basis. Following the show Peter Davey then put in some very long hours with the unenviable task of balancing and allocating the sales against the money received. Somehow, despite some of the pandemonium at the sales registers, he was able to balance to within a very, very, small “bull’s roar” of the total.



For the Sales Table, where items not for exhibition are sold, the turnover was enormously up on previous years – partly due to the backlog of two years without the event but also because items were of excellent quality. The table was also a success due to the hard work put in by a chain gang of volunteer members overseen by Martin Ganter who supervised for the entire period. Here is a Facebook link to show the amazing variety of items on the sales table.

<https://www.facebook.com/ElthamWoodworkers/videos/880751293095918>

The raffle was a resounding success this year with ticket sales of \$6,574 . The prizes were of particularly high quality especially the Japanese Inspired Park Bench and the connect four which was positively a crowd winner. Many thanks in particular to Raman Rao who was lead constructor of the first prize, the Japanese inspired outdoor setting and to Peter Davey and Colin Groves who assisted. Also to Frank Camera for the ukulele, Joe Van Koeverden for the bowl, Geoff Oliver for the jewellery box, Colin Groves for the connect four and John Mentha for the coffee table.



Many visitors came along with the intention of checking out the possibility of joining the club and over a dozen prospective new members lodged an interest (and many more subsequently). Many others were seeking skilled craftspeople to make bespoke items not offered at the exhibition. One such person was Jennie Maggs, who is seeking someone to turn a frame for a very large 1866 bronze medallion(300 mm across) designed by sculptor Charles Summers (best known for the 'Burke and Wills' statue in the city) and who was her gr gr grandfather. So, who could we ask to turn such a large piece, well none other than Joe Van Koeverden who has already made it to the total satisfaction of the visitor.



The medallion itself is actually really interesting as it was awarded to inventor *Mr. James Scott, plumber, of Hawthorn*- has anyone ever seen a reference to the invention described as -

***Ref: Argus Wednesday 12 December 1866, page 5***

***Out of a vast number of instances we select one really worth a mention. It is a portable self-heating water bath, Invented and manufactured almost wholly from colonial materials, by Mr. James Scott, plumber, of Hawthorn. It will act as a hot, cold, plunge, or shower bath, and has a self-working apparatus for regulating the supply and overflow.***

Over the last two exhibitions the refreshments hutch has developed into a very well patronised side show due to hard work from John and Annie Brownrigg. The move to serving hot foods and beverages from the greatly revamped and better positioned facility in the Centre was a huge success not only for

the comfort of members but also for visitors. It also returned a nice profit for the club to boot. John Brownrigg advised that based on the success so far, the offering next year will be even better.

And just one more thing - the total financial return to the club and to members would have to be the best ever. Total turnover for the Raffle, Exhibition sales, Sales Table and Cafe was in excess of **\$13,500 !!!** Most of this goes back to members and hopefully will be put to good use to generate even more exhibits next year.

*Charles Camera*

## **Club Engagement - From our Vice-President – Colin Groves**

This newsletter has focused on the success of our recent exhibition and I agree with the sentiments expressed by our president, our secretary, Adrian Desfontaines and other members. I am concerned, however, with the provision of items from individuals members. The exhibition had a large array of items covering most genre of woodcraft, but there were only around thirty members exhibiting. We currently have over 100 members. It is not mandatory to provide an exhibit, but we do have many talented members who are not providing exhibits. It would be great to see more members involved.

It is also a shame that many members are not making use of the workshop (possibly finished by Christmas) and not attending meetings, working bees or fund-raising activities. Now that we are having a new much larger kitchen and social room, it provides an ideal area to discuss club and other activities. As a committee member I am vitally interested in your thoughts on how we can improve the club. I am available at the open workshops on Tuesday and the 2nd and 4th Saturday of the month, or am available on 0417 563 699 or email [atghhs48@yahoo.com.au](mailto:atghhs48@yahoo.com.au). I welcome and look forward to your input

## **WHIPPERSNIPPERING AND MOWING**

Many thanks to Geoff Brown, Martin Ganter and Frank Camera for making our clubroom grounds so presentable. Our first effort was early in October followed by another session in late November. We have 16 members willing to help keep the grounds looking good, and we have whippersnipping and mowing sessions till late September next year. Early in January we will have Evan Gallert and Charlie Camera in action. At the moment those people will only have to be active once every 13 months. If you can help out please text or call me on 0417 563 699.



**Mowing..... and mowed!**

*Colin Groves*

## Pyrography Group Sunday 27/11/2022

As the Clubhouse was still closed, Beryl offered her home up as the site for this month's gathering. Unfortunately, Maike and Kevin were both apologies due to other commitments. However, I was keen to burn something, and have a good chat, so I journeyed across to Eltham.

Even though I parked in the driveway as advised, Beryl stood on her front porch and had a good chuckle as I carried my light load up the two flights of stairs to the landing. I was puffing and blowing like a whale out of water by the time I lurched onto the flat surface at the high altitude. Beryl apologised as she had run out of oxygen to help relieve my obvious "altitude distress."

After greeting the dog I was led inside to a comfortable chair, and allowed to recover from my exertions. We were quickly into some burning over a 'recuperative coffee' provided by Beryl's husband, Rob.

Beryl worked on a large serving board doing a bird amongst flowers, which was getting close to finished by the end of the day. I continued work on a test piece I had started at our last session, subject being dinosaurs. Didn't quite get it finished, but it was turning out OK and means that I can redo the theme onto a box, which was the objective of this exercise.

Time got away from us, and I left pretty late in the day. I had enjoyed a terrific day with great hosts, and enjoyed plenty of talk. Unfortunately, this was the very last session for 2022, and now I have to wait for 2023.

*Steve Mitchener*

## Special Request

[Could someone help with this inquiry.](#)

We get a lot of inquiries for woodworking related help from the public and generally we are able to refer them to enthusiastic members who usually delight with their work. This one is a bit different from the usual and is most interesting. The work does not seem so difficult, and there are many members who are skilled in doing what is asked, and I thought it was of such interest as to be featured in the newsletter. More importantly could I have volunteers to look at what we can do to help - (Adrian is very keen to pay for the trouble).

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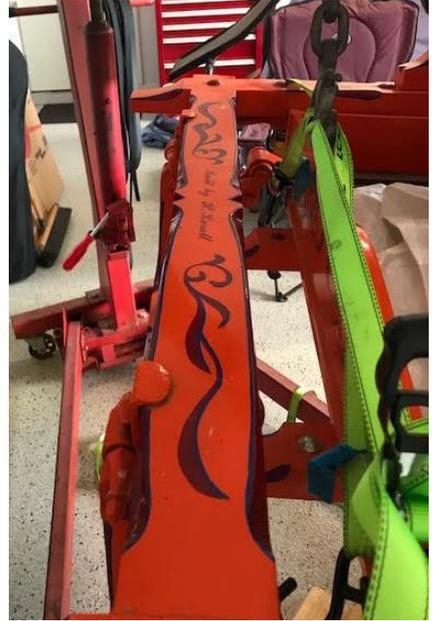
Thanks for the chat this afternoon about the horse drawn vehicle (heavy horse break for a Clydesdale) I am currently restoring. I am looking for some assistance with some wood carving and four mortise and tenon joints to attach the rear cross members to the shafts of the break. All up there are about 12 pieces that require scalloping and approximately 20 - 30 scallops on the vehicle. I can actually provide all of the old pieces for reference as they are all in good condition as in photos.





All pieces to be carved will be Spotted Gum and will be provided correctly sized and dressed.

Attached are some photos of the break and a few close ups of the scallops, they are all of the same basic design on all pieces.



I'd appreciate any assistance and help to get this project completed; it will be pulled by my four-year-old Clydesdale.



Look forward to hearing from you shortly.

*Best regards, Adrian Tym*

## **Newsletter Contributions**

Thank you to: John Brownrigg, Charles Camera, Colin Groves and Steve Mitchener.

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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