

Eltham and District Woodworkers Club
The Eltham Woodworker
Club Newsletter March 2023



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



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

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President's Report - March 2023

Hello all,
I trust you are all safe and well.

Your committee has been busy organising the opening of our new kitchen. The date is March 25th, at 2:30pm. We have several parliamentarians, the Mayors of both Nillumbik and Banyule and assorted dignitaries. Members are welcome, as are their partners. We are catering the event with finger food and drinks. The only drawback is that we need to know who will be attending, so that we can get the catering right. If you have special dietary requirements, please advise Jane Hammett.

Peter Davey is putting a Google survey together which should go out tonight or tomorrow by email. I'm assured you'll get a link in an email, which you click on, fill in the information and then submit it by pressing a single button. If you don't have internet access, you may call or email me. (phone 0409 145516 or jbrownrigg@bigpond.com).

We have been discussing the purchasing of a shed, to site near our current entrance, as discussed at the last general meeting. We are seeking another grant to make this happen, but still have a few hurdles to clear with Council, and we'll keep you advised.

The extra space we seek is to improve safety in the workshop by creating greater space between machines and by removing many of the stored items and supplies to storage while keeping them accessible for use.

We've had some issues with equipment maintenance in the workshop recently. We have quite a few keen people who are happy to have input and/or perform tasks to keep our gear at it's peak. We are working on a maintenance "body" to be tasked with repairs and preventative work. Until now much of this work has fallen on Charlie (and a couple of others) so Charlie will take this task on and step back from many of his secretarial roles. For now, if there is a fault in a machine, please advise the session leader/key holder and we can tag the machine as not to be used until Charlie can get it repaired. Please do not take maintenance into your own hands if you are not yet approved to do so, this both for general safety and of course you may create some liability.

We have a general meeting scheduled for April and the AGM in May. As previously mentioned, there will be positions to be filled at the AGM, so perhaps it's time to put your hand up to work for the welfare of your Club and its members.

John Brownrigg

Around the Workshop March 2023

Lots of activity again this month with all but one of our new machines installed and all group meetings very well attended. The remaining machine still to be installed is the Kapex Mitre Saw. Peter Davey is building a new bench for it and it will be installed as soon as possible – the sooner the better as the old saw is on its last legs.



There has been much discussion about placement of the mitre saw as many consider it unsafe behind the tablesaw and a proposal to switch positions with the router table is being considered. It will also mean that we will have to re-position the dust extraction conduit along with the router table. The Sawstop tablesaw is mostly operational but still needs some fine tuning including adding a support at the right overhang and an extension at the back. Elsewhere we are still experiencing grief with the drum sander where a record has been set for duration of a freshly installed sanding medium roll- about 15 minutes !! In addition to the nuisance of having it out of service, each change of sanding medium costs more than \$30 per drum !! It has also been hard to actually secure new sanding rolls as the local suppliers have been out of stock and as a result the machine has been out of action far more than it has been in service. Sylvester Konieczny has installed a pre-cut sanding cloth that he was able to buy but it is not the optimum grit. When we get supplies of new sanding medium it may be time **to put into action a committee decision that the machine be put under lock such that users will need to get clearance from the key holder** to use it after assurances that proper process will be followed. Sadly, this will penalise the vast majority of users who operate it correctly, but it may allow the machine to stay in a generally available state. Not surprisingly, pretty much every other club that we know about has the same policy.

During the month we had a **clean-up day** working bee which, surprisingly, was mostly attended by our very newest members. Out of all the bustle we ended up with a tidy kitchen/social room and a rearranged work space in the bench room. Most pleasing outcome was that most of the clutter has been moved off work benches to allow them to be used as intended – doing woodwork. Amongst the liberated benches are our two very good traditional style units that in more than 20 years have been ignored and almost never used. Both need minor attention to their side vices after which they will be an excellent resource.

Such activities as the clean-up rely on volunteers who go out of their way to keep the club's assets operational and for which they usually get little recognition for the hard work that they contribute. Amongst these many stalwarts, that selflessly contribute, is Tom Labor who has put in many hours of work **testing and tagging** our electrical equipment. He has just completed testing all items (and there are a lot of them!) for the year. He has retired some that have failed but surprisingly the Gerni vac, which is on it's last legs, passed testing but we are already sourcing a replacement unit.

This is just one of a great many jobs and responsibilities that is being added to a long list of responsibilities that is being progressed by David Brook. When the list is ready it will be circulated to everyone in the club in order to broaden the number of volunteers. It is hoped that by flagging the very large number of maintenance and general management of activities, we will be able to recruit more bodies and thus lighten the burden on the few, that at are at present, doing it all.

It is hoped that in future a lot of the clutter lying around will be properly stored in the **proposed storage shed**. Planning for that is progressing and we have applied for a grant from the Australian Men's Shed Association which if successful will go a long way towards meeting the cost. We now have several quotes for the concrete pad and for the shed which include a roller door and a side door/window. The council have also advised that the area outside the clubhouse will be tarred to make a car park in the next couple of weeks.

And now for a little innovation - I have noticed that people making cutting boards have difficulty shaping round ends. This will become much easier after we receive some jigs that I have ordered as per the picture. These are used with a template follower bit on the router table and with a little care will give precisely rounded ends with little effort.



We have continued to process new member applications and more than fifteen have now completed safety training and new recruits are starting to appear at group sessions. Please make them feel welcome and offer assistance where they need it and especially remind them of our safety requirements whilst they gain confidence in machine operation. All up our membership exceeds 125 although the coming call for subscriptions could deplete the numbers a little as some members choose not to remain. At the present rate we are however on track to reach 130 by the end of the year. Recruiting is very important to the long-term welfare of the club as can be seen by a quick survey of our current membership.

Nearly half our number joined in the last 5 years and less than a quarter can be described as long-term members with 15 years or more. Were it not for our constant recruiting program, aided by our Facebook and website pages, we could have suffered the fate of the many woodworking clubs which have ceased to exist as reported some years ago by the CWC (Council Of Woodworking Clubs).

FOOTNOTE - the committee has just been contacted by the turning group in regard to excessive amounts of partially constructed work, glue-ups and general timber lying around near the lathes and on their bench space. The club has always required that work be taken home between sessions wherever possible, and if not possible, to be stored upright away from work areas. **Please comply as this is another opportunity to reduce clutter and allow better use of work areas.**

Charles Camera

Mentoring Monday - March 2023

The mentoring group is powering on with excellent attendances. Paul Rushton, Hamish Hill, Sylvester Konieczny and myself are kept very busy assisting with projects and in some cases integrated with machine safety and competency training. The recent cleanup has been a boon to working space and now all the bench spaces are getting used. Projects include the ubiquitous cutting boards / serving trays, that every session has happening, to restoring an antique table.

Hamish Hill has added another offer to the activities as follows:

“It occurs to me that several of the enthusiastic woodworkers on Mondays might like to take on a project which will help them extend their skills and knowledge in working with wood. To this end, I am happy to lead those interested, through the process of creating a useful and attractive small box that would make a good gift or trinket store. (See Pic) This exercise is aimed at increasing ability with timber, techniques, finishes and the router. This is for anyone interested and available to all and sundry.”



If interested contact Hamish - hamishhillkg@hotmail.com

On the subject of getting help to start in a new field – new member, Sam Hawkins who is a graduate from an expensive course in resin techniques, has offered to transfer his learning to club members – (without the expense!). Sam exhibited several very striking coffee tables finished with the technique at our recent exhibition. If you were envious of the pieces with “riverflood” resin here is your chance to learn something new. Contact Sam on

seesawtreeremoval@gmail.com



Monday morning sessions are proving as popular as ever and last Monday there were in all 23 attendees. Some of the attendees are new members where machine training is integrated with starting projects. Some have lots of woodworking experience and some almost none but it is pleasing to see that all have lots of enthusiasm.



Martin Lawley ran a very informative sharpening session on Thursday

Charles Camera

Carving Group Reports – Rod Gorfine

Friday 17th February 2023

A smaller no. of Carvers at today's workshop. Steve continued on with his 'fat bellied' gnome project whilst Jack advanced his work on his impressive relief carving of St George and the Dragon. Jason had a range of carved spoons he was finishing off and whilst a variation on the 'carving' theme, David bought in his grandfather's claw hammer (circa 1930') and 'rebuilt' the tool with a refurbished handle. I finally finished my 'stylised' mother and baby grizzly bear project using Huon pine. Though fewer in no. a productive day was had by all.



Friday 3rd March 2023

A few more at today's workshop. Alwyn continued work on his 'moveable mouse' carving using Jelutong. Hank was in a very productive mode with a no. of spoons in American Cherry being finished off together with an owl using Osage orange. John had a couple of projects on the go as well using part of the time to work on a walking stick and also commencing a spoon carving. David was working on a 'Celtic knot' drink coaster, whilst Steve continued with his 'fat bellied' gnome. Meanwhile, I carved a spoon using Huon pine for my son's family whose last wooden spoon was half eaten by their hungry dog! As a postscript, those of us working on spoons very much enjoyed the use of a 'fit for purpose' electric carving gouging tool donated by Neil Hunt to help quickly remove excess material on our carving projects.

Rod Gorfine on behalf of the Carving Group

Pyrography Group Sunday 26/2/2023

Another Sunday, another quiet little group. Maike was colouring in and burning details onto a bunch of flowers which had been cut out previously, and had quite a bit of work done on it at home.

Beryl was marking up some purchased spoons to Pyro, then moved onto prepping a picture of Mother Hippo and her baby. This is a larger piece, and I suggested it would look great if done in “the dot technique” favoured by Maike, which I had been working with lately. Well, we’ll see if Beryl is game to give it a go.

Kevin was touching up some Raccoons on a branch, and then moved onto two chipmunks on a branch, both of which he had burned at home and was using the time here to darken the pictures so they stood out more. As for me, I worked on a T-Rex and a Stegosaurus in the dot technique. Still toying with the idea of doing a Dinosaur Box.



Steve Mitchener

Scroll saw Group on Sunday 12/2/2023.

Always keen to get to the Club, I was here a little early as usual. I was presently joined by Martin who had some small pieces to process through the machinery.

Martin was barely finished when Sylvester turned up to do some work. After some discussion, Sylvester realised he had “impinged” on a dedicated group day, and to top it off he had invited Natalia to join him. (So there would be two people here as per the rules). The Scrollsaw Group wasn’t planning to occupy the work area anyway so....

After a little bit I had Sylvester and Natalia working in the workshop area, and my beloved Scrollsaw Group set up and working in the Lathe/Layout room. Sylvester and Natalia were machining timber for a dining table, coffee table and side tables that they were making. Steve Hood was making a layered sign name for a family member, and Tony Orbe was working on a 3D Chinese Dragon Puzzle.

Kevin Sevier was cutting the picture layers which would be glued together when finished to make a 3D picture in a box. A clever little project which looks very good when finished. A little bit of carving and shaping of the layers tends to make it very appealing, but it's a lot of work. (How do I know I hear you ask? Been there, done that! Is all I'll say.)

And then there was Christine Hand working quietly at the big Scrollsaw churning out practice patterns and small animals. Chris has taken to this Scrollsaw business with a passion. And as for yours truly, I produced 16 of my "stacking men", which was a 33% increase on last month's effort.

Steve Mitchener

EDWC RAFFLE 2023 – FIRST PRIZE PROJECT – AMANA CHURCH BENCH

Following on from Raman's epic 2022 Japanese inspired bench, we've chosen this bench, which featured in a recent *Fine Woodworking* issue, as the first prize for our 2023 raffle. Its strikingly modern appearance belies the origin of its design; it was originally built for a religious community in Ebenezer, New York state in the early 1800s. That community relocated to Amana in Iowa and many of the original benches are still in use today.

The design is deceptively simple with only ten major components but there are a number of challenging aspects to the design, most notably the angled tapered mortise and tenon joints in the legs.



I'm on the lookout for a suitable timber: Australian, light coloured with minimal feature. I've seen some select messmate from Britten Timber that could be just the ticket with an estimated cost of less than \$200.

Peter Davey

Special Community Project – Paul Waite

Eltham High School recently approached EDWC to explore our interest in helping to establish a sensory garden at the school for neurodiverse people and people of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island origin. The garden will be open to the public outside of school hours and the school is currently developing a grant proposal for the consideration of Nillumbik Council. The school has already identified a designer who will assist with the overall design of the garden and Bunnings has agreed to get on board as a project partner.

Depending upon the interest of club members and the overall design direction, possible contributions from EDWC could include the construction of (theft proof) seating, and perhaps some sensory sculpture (e.g wood carving, turning).

It's early days and we're still trying to learn more about the project as well as the level of member interest to be involved. However, members of the Committee have expressed the view that the project aligns well with our club's culture; would be a great way for us to demonstrate our commitment to the local community, and would enhance our reputation in the eyes of Nillumbik Council (very helpful when we apply for future grants!).

If this sounds like something of interest to you then please reach out to Paul Waite (paul@paulwaite.com.au, 0437 425 876) who will be liaising with Eltham High School and coordinating our potential contribution to the project.



Paul Waite

March General Meeting

The last general meeting on March 1st was very well attended with more than 30 members present. The most pleasing aspect was that it was a first for our social room/kitchen where the new



space and excellent chairs made for a very comfortable experience. The meeting had some very good outcomes with several proposals from members being on the consideration list for club improvements.

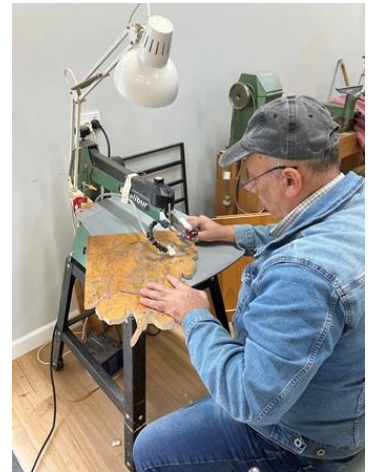
Still arriving.....

Show and Tell

Another one of Jack's masterpieces, St George and the Dragon.



This is a “layered” carving, as I had the privilege of seeing him starting work on it about one month ago. As you can see from the picture below Jack spent hours at the scroll saw cutting out the centrepiece as drawn on the top layer piece of timber.



Tom Laber, small jewellery box.

The timbers are Tassie Myrtle for the sides, top and bottom are Red Gum with a blackwood insert on top. Finished in shellac and lacquer.



Ray Mizzi Guitar

SAUSAGE SIZZLE

The following people have volunteered to assist at the sausage sizzle on the 16th April :

8am - 11am - Aurora Messina, Shane Watson, John Brownrigg.

11am - 1pm - Lorraine Kruger, John Winkett, Jane Hammett.

1pm - 3pm - Paul Waite, Richard Smith, Russell Wanklyn

3pm - 5pm - Kevin Sevier, Paul Rushton, Peter Davey

I need another individual for the 11am - 1pm time slot. If you can help out please let me know. The sausage sizzle is a terrific place to meet people. You can phone or text me on 0417 563 699 or email me at cghhs48@yahoo.com.au

Colin Groves

FREE SAWDUST

As we are now getting rid of our sawdust out the front and I would like to erect a pad on which to place the sawdust. I need 4 sleepers or lengths of timber about 150mm - 200mm x 50mm and about 8 star pickets about 400mm long. Please let me know if you can help out.

Colin Groves

EDWC Golfing Group

As members of Eltham Wood Workers. Myself, Peter Godard, Lyall Demitrios and Stephen Shaw went out to represent the club at the Bendigo Golf Day.

Bendigo Bank fund this afternoon as a means to speak to the many clubs and organisations about their interests and the bank's involvement in the local community.

With over one hundred and twenty other players, we hit off after a light lunch at Heidelberg Golf course. It was a cool day, with light-high cloud, almost perfect for golf.

We began with a shotgun start on the 5th hole at 12.20. The competition was an ambrose tournament, with 2 closest to the hole pins and one longest-drive hole. We honestly did our worst on all three of those special holes. Tried too hard and got shot down in flames.



The competition ranged from very experienced to newbie golfers. Our 4-some had an equally mixed bag of experience, with Lyall playing for the first time in over 6 years.

We had some mild frustrations with lost balls, it wouldn't be golf if we didn't. During the game we named Lyall the leading Branch member and most Woody from our club given the sheer number of trees he hit. In his defence, he said, "I just love wood". By the end of the day, everyone had hit at least one tree, earning ourselves all the right to be called Branch members as well.

The afternoon ended just on 5.00 pm with us heading back to the club house for a drink and a snack before heading home.

Our final team score was 3 over par 72 for 75 total. Not too shabby, but we would have loved to pull a par game out of the hat. A birdie or two would have made all the difference.

All thanks to Bendigo Bank for Hosting the event and inviting us.

Shane Watson - Golfing Branch member Eltham Wood Workers

For Sale:

CORONET ELF WOODTURNING LATHE FOR SALE



This lathe was purchased in the mid 1980's from Len Smith who ran the Woodsmith woodturning shop in Ivanhoe. The lathe was manufactured in the UK by Coronet which was later taken over by Record. It can swing about 160mm diameter over the bed and has 760mm between centres which means that it can be used to turn table legs.

The headstock swivels through 90 degrees and with the outboard tool rest attachment it will accommodate bowls up to about 320mm, this is a great feature. It has four speeds via stepped pulleys; changing speeds takes about 10 seconds.



It comes with the following accessories: spur drives, live centres, a screw chuck, a 1/2" Jacobs chuck and a very good combination chuck with a 1" collet, two expanding dovetail collets for mounting bowls and a 1" pin chuck. There are also a few chisels and scrapers. It comes on a sturdy timber base. I reckon these are all you need to get started with woodturning for \$475.

Contact Peter Davey on 0421 544 115

EDWC CLUB Workshop / Meeting Calendar March 2023:

EDWC Calendar 2023		APRIL		Active 01/04/2023		
						Saturday 1st April
						Open Workshop
						9:00am – 12.00 /12.30 pm
						Aurora Messina
Sunday 2nd April	Monday 3rd April	Tuesday 4th April	Wednesday 5th April	Thursday 6th April	Friday 7th April	Saturday 8th April
	Mentoring	Open Workshop	Exhibition Toy Makers	Open Workshop	Good Fiday	Holy Saturday
	Charlie Camera: 0413481699	9:00am – 12:30 pm	Watch this space	9:00am – 1:00 pm	Public Holiday	Public Holiday
	9:30 - 11:30 am	Colin Groves: 0417563699	Wes Weight	Paul Rushton	Please check with session leaders	Please check with session leaders
				Turning		
				1:00 - 4:00pm		
				Tony Orbe		
		Open Workshop 6:30- 8:00pm				
		Peter Davey NB text Peter by midday on 0421 544 115 to confirm attendance			Carving	Open Workshop
					9:00am - 3:00pm	9:00am – 12.00 /12.30 pm
					Alwyn Wainwright	Toby Grant: 0488994741
						Colin Groves: 0417563699
						Aurora Messina
						Aurora Messina
Sunday 9th April	Monday 10th April	Tuesday 11th April	Wednesday 12th April	Thursday 13th April	Friday 14th April	Saturday 15th April
Easter Sunday	Easter Monday	Open Workshop	Exhibition Toy Makers	Open Workshop		Open Workshop
Public Holiday	Public Holiday	9:00am – 12:30 pm	Watch ThisSpace	9:00am – 1:00 pm		9:00am – 12.00 /12.30 pm
		Colin Groves 0417 563 699	Wes Weight	Sylvester Konieczny 0407009951		Toby Grant: 0488994741
Please check with session leaders				Turning		Colin Groves: 0417563699
Scroll Saw		Instrument Group Session		1:00 - 4:00pm		Aurora Messina
9:00 am – 4:00pm		1:00 - 4:00 pm		Tony Orbe:		
Steve Mitchener		Frank Camera:				
Sunday 16th April	Monday 17th April	Tuesday 18th April	Wednesday 19th April	Thursday 20th April	Friday 21st April	Saturday 22nd April
Sausage Sizzle	Mentoring	Open Workshop	Exhibition Toy Makers	Open Workshop	Carving	Box Making /Open Workshop
Bunnings Eltham	Charlie Camera: 0413481699	9:00am – 1:30 pm	Watch This Space	9:00am – 1:00 pm	9:00am - 3:00pm	9:30 - 1:00pm
	9:30 - 11:30 am	Colin Groves 0417 563 699	Wes Weight	Sylvester Konieczny 0407009951	Alwyn Wainwright	John Brownrigg: 0409145516
			Committee			Aurora Messina
			7:30-9:00pm	Turning		
				1:00 - 4:00pm		
		Open Workshop		Tony Orbe:		
		6:30- 8:00pm				
		Peter Davey NB text Peter by midday on 0421 544 115 to confirm attendance				
Sunday 23rd April	Monday 24th April	Tuesday 25th April	Wednesday 26th April	Thursday 27th April	Friday 28th April	Saturday 29th April
Pyrography	Mentoring	Open Workshop	ANZAC Day	Open Workshop		Open Workshop
9:00am – 4:00pm	Charlie Camera: 0413481699	9:00am – 12:30 pm	Public Holiday	9:00am – 1:00 pm		9:00am – 12.00/12.30 pm
Steve Mitchener	9:30 - 11:30 am	Colin Groves 0417 563 699		Sylvester Konieczny 0407009951		Colin Groves: 0417563699
				Turning		Toby Grant: 0488994741
		Instrument Group Session		1:00 - 4:00pm		Aurora Messina
		1:00 - 4:00 pm		Tony Orbe:		
		Frank Camera:				
Sunday 30th April	Monday 31st April	Tuesday 1st May	Tuesday 2nd May	Tuesday 3rd May	Friday 4th May	Saturday 5th May
	Mentoring	Open Workshop	Exhibition Toy Makers	Open Workshop	Carving	
	Charlie Camera: 0413481699	9:00am – 12:30 pm	Watch This Space	9:00am – 1:00 pm	9:00am - 3:00pm	
	9:30 - 11:30 am	Colin Groves 0417 563 699	Wes Weight	Sylvester Konieczny 0407009951	Alwyn Wainwright	
				Turning		
		Instrument Group Session		1:00 - 4:00pm	Instrument Group Session	
		1:00 - 4:00pm		Tony Orbe:	TBC	
		Frank Camera			Frank Camera:	
FUTURE EVENTS						

Newsletter Contributions

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

Ph. 0427 964 254

