

ELTHAM AND DISTRICT WOODWORKERS CLUB

The Eltham Woodworker CLUB NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2021



Reg. Number A0025947P

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VICTORIAN
MEN'S SHED
ASSOCIATION

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,

Finally, we are allowed back into the Club to work. There is a new sign-in system to confirm double vaccination status and there are plenty of sanitiser bottles and anti-bacterial wipes available, so please use these. It is for the protection of everyone, including ourselves.

Recently we were advised that a long term member was observed using equipment whilst alone in the workshop. This is definitely not permitted, no matter your standing in the Club. There are obvious safety issues but importantly there are very likely insurance issues which could affect all members.

I was recently asked about our pending re-opening by a member who was keen to get back into the workshop. I advised the process and possible wait and was met with the statement "we'd be back now if only we hadn't joined the Men's Sheds ". So, let's look at that. The requirements on our club's membership of the Men's Shed Associations are exactly none. As a Community Shed and member of the VMSA and AMSA we have access to a very strong network of Clubs, stronger governmental access and many more grants of funding. The Association has provided us with accurate information on lockdown status which while supported by the Association, came from the government. We are not required to be a Men Only club, nor would we consider membership of any organisation on those terms. We gain from this membership and we are not required to alter our own rules, memberships or operations. I think that's a win.

We haven't had a general meeting for a while and may not for a while yet, due to the density limits required to meet Covid safety standards. We only allowed 15 people on site at a time, and that doesn't meet our requirements of a quorum. We are exploring other methods of meeting as the restrictions may be with us for a while and there are some items we need to address. Rest assured that you will be informed of all events as required and if you are not sure of something, ask a committee member.

I hope that all remain safe and well. See you at the Club!

John Brownrigg 0409 145516

Around the workshop October 2021

On Monday the Nov. 8th mentoring group took advantage to restart after the club's re-opening under the new covid safe rules. The rules include the major requirement that members must show evidence of full vaccination and the process put in place for logging vaccination compliance worked very well. This only requires you to show your evidence once and on subsequent visits the logged record will suffice. It was pleasing to see some familiar faces and I and Colin Groves look forward to seeing not only the regular attendees but anyone else that is interested in future. Colin was also able to show his completed connect four project that was to have been a prize in our raffle this year.



The call for volunteers to mow the grass that had grown very tall after recent rain was answered by Toby Grant who was then gazumped by Peter Goddard who turned up ahead of him on Tuesday. Thank you both for offering – tigers (well tiger snakes anyway) will now find it difficult to lurk in the grass and wait for a snack.

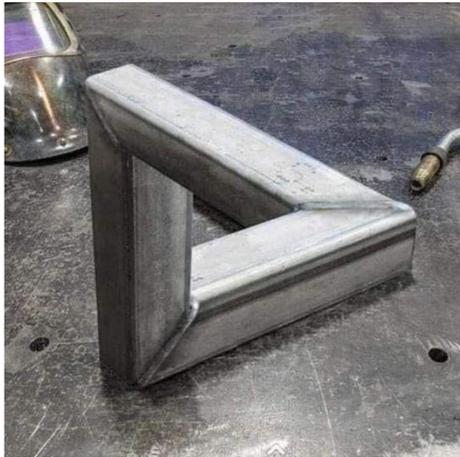
The dust Extractor had a bit of a hissy on Tuesday but again Rodney our electrician was promptly on the scene and rectified a loose connection. Brian Blethyn is still busy building a fence for us to surround the blower and Colin Groves will be the lead in setting up a collection point out the front from which the public can take away the dust. With the extractor now operating the future group can proceed with our long awaited double drum sander purchase. Andat some point I might just start breathing normally again – it has been a long slog.

Raymond Mizzi has donated a laptop for our laser engraver with thanks. There are still a number of issues to clear before we can commission it in the club rooms especially as lasers are inherently dangerous. I have been testing it at home and have left a test piece on the entrance table if anyone would like to see how markings might look on their work.

The Eltham Historical Society (of which I am a member) has asked the club to assist with the restoration of a commemoration garden seat that marks the end of the Shire of Eltham. The Shire is donating the timber which I inspected under the Library building, which as everyone will know is made of timber. On turning over a very large beam I was shocked to see a huge termite nest between it and the next beam. After the council officer with me recovered from the shock, he ran off to call his department and request a building inspection –



might have been a lucky event. Despite the termite damage the beams should be suitable and I have asked some members to help mill them. I do however NEED HELP with routing the inscription. Could someone capable please offer to do it, or at least advise how to do it - does anyone have router templates??



On a lighter matter I have a little favour to ask. As someone still unable to weld I would be pleased if someone could make this for me. I will supply the steel and the dimensions.

Charles Camera – Secretary EDWC

Another great piece of rustic furniture

Having many sheds full of things “that might come in handy one day” can have its rewards. This recently completed adjustable stool is an example of those rewards. The heart and soul of the stool is the adjusting mechanism salvaged from a hard rubbish office chair. To eliminate the possibility of any wobble in the seat I enclosed the thread in a metal tube. This tubing was originally the frame of an old mountain bike that had just the internal diameter I wanted. Securing this tubing to the stool frame involved a bracket constructed from a metal curtain rod holder and a piece of telescopic car aerial. To repurpose discarded objects into something functional is an enjoyable activity to undertake.

Alan West



From plans to drawings to templates to the real thing – Jim Stockton

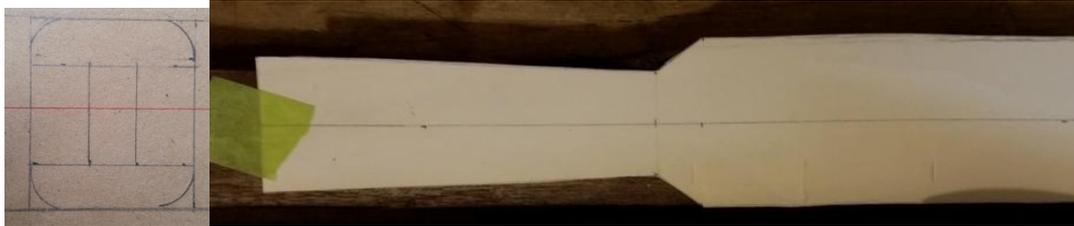
At a recent club day I watched a friend working to translate a small scale plan into a full-sized project and it seemed like a good time to reveal some of the dark secrets of boat builders. I’m not a professional boat builder but some of them have let me hang around their workshops and went to a lot of effort to remedy my education. Much of what I learned applies to any woodworking project.

To start with woodworking plans, it’s unlikely that the person who drew the plan ever built the project. Designers are paid to create designs, usually by magazines. The publishers of magazines don’t want to pay much for designs, so the designer is encouraged to spend as little time as possible on it. The publishers won’t have built the project so they won’t have found the errors. Illustrations are usually at a very small scale and critical details and dimensions are often missing. Often the different views of the plan are at different scales.

What is a poor woodworker to do?

The boat builder's first secret is that they will probably re-draw the whole project at full size. Small items may be drawn on paper or light card (manila folders are excellent). Medium sized projects may be drawn on plywood, because it doesn't swell and contract from changes in humidity. Big projects may be drawn on a floor or wall. For example, I've seen an 8 metre launch drawn at full size on a wall.

The photos show the drawings for the cross-section of a hollow oar shaft on the left and the handgrip on the right.



Don't forget to draw in details like joints and the location of fastenings. It's really embarrassing to find later that you want to put a bolt in a position you can't reach. Time spent with pencil and eraser at this stage save a lot of anguish later (I've done the anguish). And yes, the eraser is important because if you leave any redundant marks you will probably cut in the wrong place (done that too).

For big, complex projects it may pay to make a model at this stage because it lets you see how the pieces fit together. A very useful scale is 1:10. This is a good reason to convert all the



measurements to metric before doing anything else. Try finding one-tenth of 2'5 1/2" in your head. Now try finding one-tenth of 749mm. That's easy, move the decimal point one place to the left and it is 74.9mm. The photo shows a model for an Irish coracle (upside down) sitting on the seat of the finished coracle. I used it to visualize the final product. It also helped me to foresee the difficulties of lacing the framework together as the

bent stems try to spring apart.

If some of the components interact, making a prototype out of cheap materials first is probably a good idea. For example, the photo shows the prototype for gears that need to mesh.

Back to the real project. Rather than mark up good wood, perhaps make a template first. In fact, templates are just about essential if you want to make a number of identical pieces.

Now is a good time to put the job aside for a day. It's quite common to think of something at this stage that hasn't been considered.

Okay, now you can take the templates to your stock, mark up and start the woodworking.



Jim Stockton

Thursday Arvo Turning – for the month of OCTOBER – another month with no club turning.

Still nothing happening in the club rooms, I don't even know if they're still there after all that wind, hope everyone pulled through OK. Here in St Andrews we were without power for 3 days – that means no running water and only a BBQ to cook on, no mobile service for 5 days and no internet for about 9 days, we were reduced to free to air TV, a lot of reading was done!on second thoughts, maybe not.

I haven't been very active turning lately, apart from re-arranging my workshop and moving into the new stable.

Hopefully some of you guys have written something for Frank to put in the newsletter because I'm just about tapped out. I haven't managed to get any of the stoppers done that I should have been working on. I haven't spoken to any other turners, so I don't know what they've been up to.

I did manage to get some magic wands done for a friend's 2 kids, the main problem I had was my skill level didn't measure up with my imagination, but, on the whole they turned out pretty good, at least the kids were impressed.



The bottom one has what passes for pyrography at my place all done with a soldering iron, and the knobs on the ends pull off so you can shove magical things in there – like chicken feathers, all class around this joint!



I also knocked up a quick paper towel holder for the stable, the spindle's a bit over the top but I wanted to practice spheres, which I'm rubbish at, and try out my Saburrtooth burrs with a Dremel, they worked really well.

Finished item with paper roll and weight.

The finish used on this was Triple E & Shellwax glow, which is my go to finish for most items, if I'm being particular I'll use at least 4 coats of Danish Oil. **Steve Hood**



Scroll Saw Saturdays for November - Well! What can I say – nothing happened.

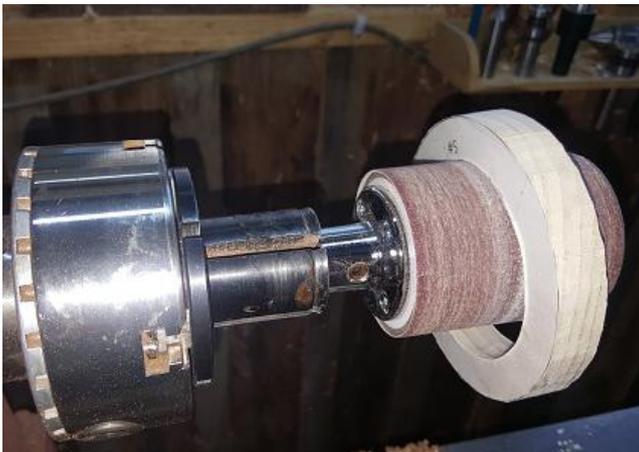
I've broken out the scroll saw at home to cut out some rings for making a honey pot to turn and I also bought some new blades from Helen Harris. The blades seem to last an extraordinary amount of time, however I suspect that it's because the scroll saw doesn't get used a lot.



Ready to cut out the rings



Filing the Decagon smooth (that's a 10 sided thingo, thanks Tony) the top part is round inside.



Sanding the inside

Glue up the base



Steve Hood

Notice from the Committee:



The access number for the Key Safe at club will be changed soon. If you need to use this key for access to the club then please contact a member of the committee for the new security code.

Carving Group report

I have nothing to report from the group because of our lockdown except I have finished a carving of Owl on a stand.

I do not know the name of the wood but it is the hardest I have ever worked with. I also have carved a small Angel and a relief carving of a Holden Lion.

I am sending photos with this report. I cannot wait for the Club to open as I have lots of half finished projects to machine. I have been in contact with a lot of Members they all seem to be in the same boat.

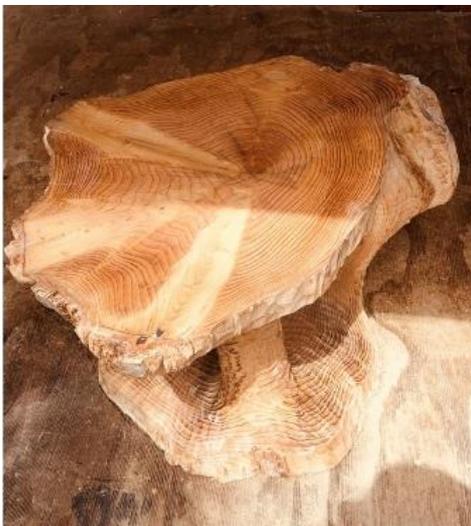


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Just for Members interest. For the last three years I have been using Max Bond PVA d3 wood glue int.ext use W/proof. It is very clean and does not stain the wood or your hands and has a very strong finish.

Yours in Woodwork Alwyn

More Homework Items #1



My October project was completing a 43 cm high table in Cedar of Lebanon finished with Tung Oil. The cedar log was cut through the branches creating three

distinctive yellow flares of branch-wood in the cross-section of the table's top. The table's top end grain was sanded to #600. Chisel cuts of the legs and base are unfinished allowing for the cedar's aromatic oils to be released.

Hank Tyler



#2 While we can't use the larger machinery that we enjoy so much at the clubhouse I guess most of us have had to resort to making smaller items. I don't know what you would call this item but it was a lot of fun making it (I call it my funny thing).

I had some leftover European Beech from a previous item I had made. This item was an exercise on cutting 45 degree angles and lengths. I cut the angles with my picture framing saw with a stop set up to ensure each piece was the correct length. Overall I was quite pleased with the end result. Not sure what it will be used for other than an interesting talking point.



David Green

#3 I was asked some time ago to fix a garden seat for a lady. At first glance I thought this would be a lovely little project but I soon discovered that all was not what I thought it was. The chair ends are cast iron (or at least I believe they are) and the other interesting feature of these chair legs are that the seat tilts up and down. I don't know what they were originally used for but I feel that they could have been chairs in a public tram or a movie theatre. I say this because there are screw holes in the feet so it appears that it was fixed to the floor at some stage.

But the real kicker is the fact that there are no screw holes to attach the timber seat or back. What is there is a wiggly piece of the cast iron and this feature is tapered like a dove tail. After much thought and consideration I have cut the timber slats for the back rest. In these slats I have cut a slot in each with a dove tail on one side. Then to fix them to the iron frame I have cut a small piece of wood with a dove tail on one side and a flat on the other side then just hammered it in. Much to my surprise it has become very solid. The lady who owns this chair also had a couple of old red gum fence posts and that is what I am using for the slats. Hence another covid holdup while the clubhouse is closed. Ah well covid has certainly taught me how to be patient.



David Green

St Andrews Men's Shed – Band Saw Mill Steve Hood

This is a few photo's of the St Andrews Men's Shed (SAMS) slabbing a Cherry log with their new band saw mill for an arborist who was kind enough to donate a few pieces of wood to EDWC, (at a future date these will be left in the club for members, although they're more suitable for turners or carvers than anyone else – my opinion only, I may be wrong). Said arborist, Russell, is a turner and may one day join EDWC.



The bottom photo shows the largest piece which includes the pith and shows an excellent finish off the blade, I would take a guess at an 80 ~ 100 grit finish. As good a finish as we get off the club bandsaws but flat and straight, far exceeding my expectations. Sorry about the photo quality.



Anyway, as I've mentioned before SAMS is willing to mill any logs you or EDWC may have in the future. Due to maintenance and running costs there will need to be some

contribution to the upkeep, what this may be has not been decided so could be in milled timber, coin of the realm or other consideration, but I'm sure it won't be a great deal and milled timber can be on sold to defray any expenses incurred.



Also should any boards surplus to SAMS needs be available I'll make sure EDWC members are informed and given an opportunity to purchase.

Please contact Steve Hood (stevehood10@gmail.com) if you would like to take SAMS up on this offer at any time in the future.

Just to be clear this is NOT being done by SAMS as a profit making enterprise but rather being offered as a community service in a spirit of inter-club co-operation.

[Possibly if EDWC has enough boards they may provide a source of income IF we ever get the show happening again - just a thought]

Steve Hood

A report from Darwin – Ron Rowe

Like a lot of Victorians, we saw December 2020 as the opening of borders across all states, but as we soon found out that was short lived. We wanted to see what the NT had to offer over the buildup and the wet season. What I can tell you is that the buildup can be very uncomfortable at times. The wet season is another thing, the NT is green and in flower, there is not a native plant not in flower and all the National park waterfalls are in full flow and the rivers as well. The top end is a place to come during the wet but it's not as wet as you might think. It rains mostly early morning and overnight, but when it rains you know about it.

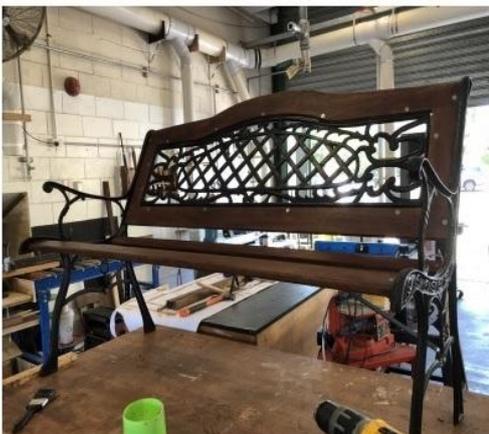
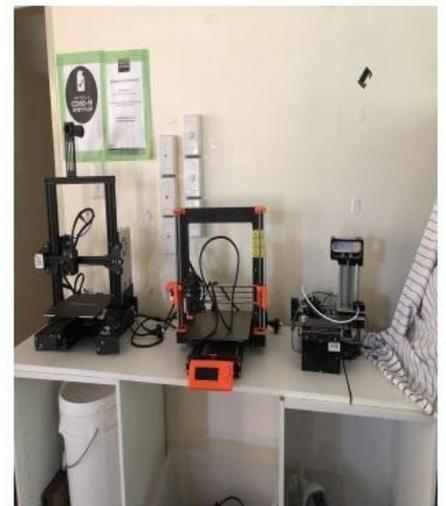
Our plan was to return late April but then it was a lockdown in Vic again. No way were we going to return. By now the covid shots were available in NT. We made a decision not to return until we got our second shot, given what was happening in Victoria. Then again comes another lockdown in Victoria, but this came at a cost to us. What we didn't know was the number of people wanting to escape each of the states. Roads were blocked, petrol

stations had no fuel and accommodation was totally booked through to

September with free camps overcrowded. Queues were

up to 6km at border crossings. We were stuck in the NT with nowhere to go.

While we were here we also had two lockdowns, 7 and 14 days, not much to complain about though, given what



Victoria was going through. I managed to get some part time work at a caravan park giving us a bit of income, without that we were in trouble. The biggest thing for me was the mental factor, not knowing what was going to happen next.

If it wasn't for the Darwin Men's shed the depression factor could have taken control. In 2019 was the first time I had been and spent time with them, so I was not a newcomer. Just after I left Darwin in 2019 the shed was told they were required to move out by March 2020. Covid was playing its game here as well however the NT has not suffered the continuous restraints as Victorians have.

The members lobbied hard and eventually a grant of \$120k was given to assist in the move, but every location given or suggested would soak up the dollars just for adjustments to the building and that's without cyclone proofing. To date the members have been allowed to remain where they are until 2023 at a cost of \$20k for reinstallation and a request to return the \$120K. But the promises go on.

I have been made welcome at the shed. We are open 3 days a week; Tuesday 10am to 16:00, Thursday 10am to 16:00 and Sunday 13:00 to 16:00. Membership is \$30 for the non working and \$40 for those who work.

During this time I have worked on their machinery doing maintenance, re building machinery and the re-commissioning of that machinery which had been pulled down for the move. One of the first things was to get the web information up to date but they still do not have a web site. The shed is involved with many groups and the strangest one of all is the NT government, which they get a lot of work from and want to remove them from the building.



Other groups are: Darwin Council, Darwin University (CDU), Kindergartens and Special schools etc.

Then there are the walk-ins looking for things to be repaired or made. The shed has seven 3D printers and here I was given the opportunity to teach Fusion 360 to interested members allowing them to design and print a product. The rest of the time was helping others gain new hand skills and use of the machinery.

Projects include: mud kitchens, ramps for entry points, rebuilding garden benches, Installing air lines, Bee hives (I was given the task to design and draw retaining clips for each level of the hive), finch nesting boxes and design and provide drawings for all incoming projects with Fusion 360.

The shed also collects old bikes and rebuilds them almost to new. They also collect unwanted trailers and totally rebuild them.



Today I was able to pass on some wood turning skills obtained from the EDWC Thursday woodturning group Graham, Tony and Steve.

The shed is a retired fire station.

From what we hear every day 1900+ covid cases leaves us with desire to return any time soon, and we hear this from all Victorians that have been stranded in the top end. Our return back is still controlled by the availability of accommodation as we had driven up.



no

To you all, keep safe.

Ron Rowe

EDWC CLUB Workshop / Meeting Calendar:

Note - There are now scheduled openings on 1st and 3rd 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
SUNDAY				
9:30 - 3:30				PYROGRAPHY Steve Mitchener
MONDAY				
9:30 - 11:30	MENTORING Charles Camera	MENTORING Charles Camera	MENTORING Charles Camera	MENTORING Charles Camera
TUESDAY				
9:30 - 1:30	OPEN WORKSHOP Mark Thompson	OPEN WORKSHOP Mark Thompson	OPEN WORKSHOP Mark Thompson	OPEN WORKSHOP Mark Thompson
5:30 - 8:00 PM	TURNING Brian Blethyn		TURNING Brian Blethyn	
6:30 - 8:00 PM	OPEN WORKSHOP Peter Davey Adrian Desfontaines		OPEN WORKSHOP Peter Davey Adrian Desfontaines	
WEDNESDAY				
9:00 - 12:00	WES' WORKSHOP Wes Weight	WES' WORKSHOP Wes Weight	WES' WORKSHOP Wes Weight	WES' WORKSHOP Wes Weight
1:00 - 3:00				EXHIBITION COMM. Adrian Desfontaines
6:30 - 9:00			COMMITTEE	

THURSDAY				
9:00 - 1:00	OPEN WORKSHOP Mark Thompson	OPEN WORKSHOP Mark Thompson	OPEN WORKSHOP Mark Thompson	OPEN WORKSHOP Mark Thompson
1:00 - 4:00 PM	TURNING Tony Orbe	TURNING Tony Orbe	TURNING Tony Orbe	TURNING Tony Orbe
FRIDAY				
9:00 - 12:00		TURNING David Cowan		TURNING David Cowan
9:00 - 5:00	CARVING Alwyn Wainwright		CARVING Alwyn Wainwright	
SATURDAY				
9:30 - 1:00	SCROLL SAW Steve Mitchener	OPEN WORKSHOP Mark Thompson	BOX MAKING John Brownrigg	OPEN WORKSHOP Mark Thompson
9:30 - 1:00		BEGINNERS TURNING Steve Hood		BEGINNERS TURNING Steve Hood
1:00 - 4:00 PM				

[Newsletter Contributions](#)

Thank you to: John Brownrigg, Charles Camera, Steve Hood, Jim Stockton, Alan West, Hank Tyler, Ron Rowe 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.

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