

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



**EDWC Office Bearers**

President	Vice President	Secretary	Treasurer
John Brownrigg	Colin Groves	Charles Camera	David Brooks
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**Board Members**

Raman Rao		Aurora Messina
Peter Davey	Jane Hammett	Adrian Desfontaines



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## President's Report

Hello all, I hope you are all well.

Most of this month's happenings Charlie has covered in "Around the Workshop" so I don't propose to duplicate that work. I will however acknowledge the visit we received from the Hon. Colin Brooks, whose portfolios are Minister for Disability, Ageing and Carers and Minister for Child Protection and Family Services. He was accompanied by Lauren Kathage, the new Labor candidate for the Yan Yean electorate and the very competent Sarah who was keeping the scheduling tight. We enjoyed their visit and quite a few members turned up in support to show their work, so thanks to all of those who came.

The Wattle Festival went well, a huge thank you to all of those who attended or assisted.

The Whittlesea Show people have been in contact and we are confirmed in a 6m x 9m tent. We need to know in advance who intends to demo and exhibit so Adrian DesFontaines is your contact point for Whittlesea for now. Some sales are allowed (sadly not raffle tickets) as we have done in the past.

Hopefully we'll meet on Sunday for the general meeting.

*Regards, John B.*

## Around the workshop Sept 2022

Another busy month where there has been excellent attendance at all group sessions. It seems the most popular project right now is end grain cutting boards and there are many beautiful examples turning out such as the one in the photo where Lorraine Kruger is getting some very high-powered advice from Sylvester Konieczny, Frank Camera and Barry lay.



There was also a turn up of more than 20 members for the cleanup day on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> with the indomitable Colin Groves cracking the whip. After much toil and sweat the garden out the front was in place and our club sign re-positioned and standing proud. Another group cleaned out our storage container – my what a difference properly stacking

materials makes to the volume of space taken up!. Others cleaned up inside and for those who were able to stay back, a rewarding BBQ and a few well earned drinks were had.



Every year a group of very generous members work hard to make raffle prizes for our Annual Exhibition. Our raffle is not only a fund raiser but a tradition in the club. The raffle was instituted almost as soon as the club was formed, several decades ago, as the then primary fund raiser to augment annual subscriptions. Whilst it was the primary means of fund raising in the past, in more recent times, Men's Shed and other grants have realised vastly greater amounts of money. As a result we now enjoy a great many

improvements to our facilities including new space and new machines. For this year's raffle we have a beautiful bowl from Joe Van Koeverden, a jewel box by Geoff Oliver, a Connect Four made by Colin Groves, a small redgum table by John Mentha, a ukulele by Frank Camera and a stunning Japanese inspired garden bench by Raman Rao assisted by Peter Davey and Colin Groves.

Funding of Men's Sheds is a focus of government bodies both State and Federal as it is recognised that they provide great benefit to the community especially for older people. It was therefore a pleasure to have had the Victorian Minister for Disability, Ageing and Carers Hon. Colin Brooks MP visit our club on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> August along with the new candidate for the electorate, Lauren Katharge.

[<https://new.parliament.vic.gov.au/members/colin-brooks/>] Colin explained that in his position he has





a keen interest in the role that clubs such as ours and Men's Sheds in general play in assisting older people in enjoying life and staying active and maintaining mental wellbeing. He was impressed with the improvements we have achieved using funding and promised to stay in touch in regard to assisting with future needs.

Every year around exhibition time there is always much ado about what pricing should be set on items put up for sale. When walking through the local Target store, I was taken by some well-designed pieces of furniture that seemed to be made of real wood. On closer inspection it was clear that legs and rails were indeed real wood but table tops shelves etc were veneered chipboard as usual. Whilst impressed by the quality, what really astonished me was that the prices were extremely low- most less than \$200 for items such as desks, cabinets, low tables etc. In one case, a desk, I doubt that we could source timber for the legs and rails for the selling price. Somewhere in Asia a factory is sawing up logs, drying the timber, workers are roughing components for a CNC machine to final shape for an all-up cost of possibly less than \$40 dollars. After packaging, sea freight, local distribution, mark up and sales tax the price comes to \$170. This mass produced "furniture" does not equate to what we do and we are NOT competing with it. **As artisans we are not in this business – artisan woodwork is worth far, far, more and customers do appreciate value and lasting quality so please do not understate the proper selling price of your work at the exhibition - or at any time.**



Each year the raffle results in at least 8 items being distributed to winners which means that over more than two decades there is now a very large number of prizes in homes. In the vast majority of cases their providence will have been forgotten. However, hopefully this will not happen going forward as from this year we will be laser engraving all the prizes to preserve their history. In fact, if anyone wishes to have their names or any other details engraved on their own work for the exhibition, please let me know.

Just a little note – some time ago the club acquired 6 hearing protectors which were meant to be a backup for people forgetting to bring their own. There is only one set of these left in the club – could everyone please check their homes and see if the others have accidentally migrated.

*Charles camera*



A few more snapshots of the working bee day, run by the man in the middle here with clipboard and stick.

## Wattle Festival 2022

About fourteen members from the EDWC attended the Wattle Festival at Hurstbridge on Sunday 28th August. We made about \$420 on raffle tickets, while Rod and Hank did some carving, Wes got rid of some old bits from past Wes' Workshop, Steve did some scroll sawing, Tony did some turning and Mark sang whilst trying to make and sell guitars. The raffle table was busy having most of the prizes on display. By far the most popular was the giant Connect Four (looks like someone has to make another one next year) Many people asked Rod what a nativity scene was. If a child came near Wes they got a toy for free. While Thommo was asked incessantly about the type of wood he used in guitar making. We had a great time on a very pleasant day while we were serenaded by the line dancers.

*Colin Groves*



Scenes from the Wattle festival in Hurstbridge; Colin and the popular big connect 4 game, Mark showing his guitar skills, Colin doing great work selling raffle tickets and Wes and his dragsters.





More pictures from the festival stand showing Raman, Tony and Hank. All photos thanks to Adrian Desfontaines.



## Scrollsaw Group Sunday 14th August – Steve Mitchener

Kevin stayed away today due to 'cold symptoms', putting the health of us other group members ahead of his own desire to participate. Thanks Kevin, we appreciate your sacrifice.

Steve Hood tackled another 'spiral warp' in a much heavier ply, after last month's failure of his first attempt. And he had a successful outcome this time I am pleased to report.

Chris stayed with the puzzles, producing a mother and calf whale puzzle, and a mother and baby elephant (probably also called a calf) puzzle, both of which were in pine. Then Chris tackled a hexagonal puzzle in hardwood consisting of odd interlocking shapes. All turned out really well.

Tony did another 3D piece for his collection. A ballerina cum mermaid in Cypress Pine. Once it was cut, it didn't want to leave the block. But here is where experience came into play, and it was successfully removed without damage. Then Tony started a Dragon puzzle.

I had brought along some stackable men I had designed, and managed to get some work done and produced a small pile of them. These are designed to be cut from the edge of the wood, so it's just plain straight cutting. So, I had the easiest day of all the cutters.



*Steve Mitchener*

## Wes's Workshop Notice:

The club's toy makers have completed 2022 / 2023 exhibition toys, therefore there is no immediate need for this group to meet on Wednesday mornings. This toy making time slot is now available for any other group or useful purpose, until we resume possibly mid 2023.

An acknowledgement and thank you to Tony Orbe, Tom Laber, Rod Gorfine for their participation and expertise in completing the exhibition toy projects for 2022 / 2023. The toy makers will resume mid 2023 to continue the worthwhile exercise.

*Cheers, Wes Weight*

## New insurance arrangements for our club – David Brooks

The club has taken out new insurance policies which now include personal injury insurance. This means that all members are covered for injuries which occur at the club rooms or at club events at other premises (eg the forthcoming exhibition at Eltham). The insurance is part of a package available from the Mens Shed Association.

The committee received quite a positive response from members to this change earlier this month when we asked for views and comments.

The diagram below shows the process to follow if you are injured at the club. Note that the policy does not replace private medical cover or Medicare. The policy reimburses costs (as per the schedule of benefits) for the out of pocket non-Medicare related expenses. If you are injured and think you are eligible for a claim under this policy you should contact the Treasurer (Dave Brooks – [dbrooks1955@outlook.com](mailto:dbrook1955@outlook.com)) as soon as possible. He will assist you to complete the claim form. Under the policy the club must report incidents to the insurer within 30 days of the date of the incident.



## Rod's Show and Tell: (Which was unfortunately left out of last month's newsletter)

A couple of pics of my completed child's play animal barn. I still have to construct the 'out yards', however the main barn is complete with removable side roof panels to enable the grand kids to more easily get their hands inside the animal stalls.

*Rod Gorfine*





## Thursday Afternoon Turning, August – Steve Hood

We've been pretty busy on Thursday afternoon turning. Tom has been busily making pens while Rod has turned a couple of really nice platters both from Camphor Laurel, the top one being a shallow bowl and the lower a flat platter with a grooved rim, all done on the club lathes. This week he was working on a replacement lid needed by a local church, not sure if it was a prototype or the actual lid.



Eric has been busy this month with a commission of a couple of finials going to Majorca, See separate article about that below. He's also been working on a couple of bowls, the one shown here has been turned with the bark left on. ►



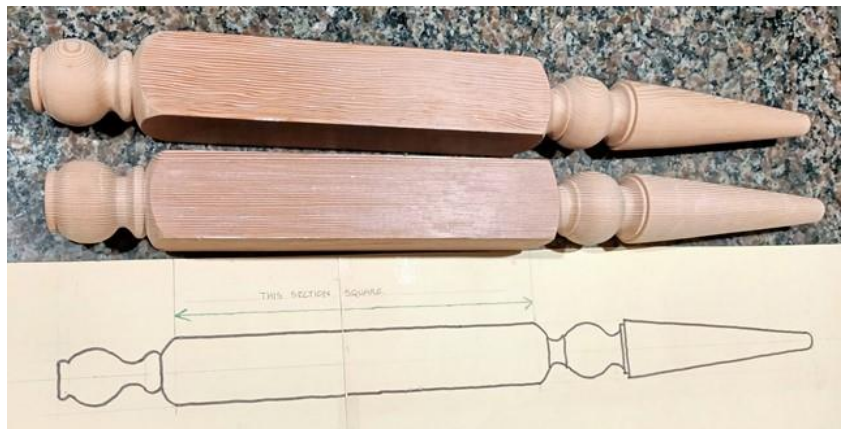
## Feast of Finials – Eric Gunstone

Alan West contacted Steve Hood with a request for some finials to be turned for a house Alan's son is renovating in Majorca, Steve being the generous type felt he should share such an adventure with others and consequently asked for a volunteer to undertake this project.

Myself being a desperate for travel to such exotic places and envisioning a paid for trip to sunny Majorca jumped feet first at this golden opportunity.

Unfortunately, I subsequently learned that it was not sunny Majorca off the coast of Spain where these finials were destined for but Majorca just south east of Maryborough in chilly Victoria, which no doubt is also a pretty spot.

Oh well, I put my togs and suitcase back into winter storage and just got on with the job.



Alan had provided some Douglas Fir (Oregon) which is a softwood of the Pine family so it turned quite easily and also a full-size diagram of what was required so I was able to use that as a story board and that made the task much easier.

I'll be looking forward the seeing the results once attached to the renovated palace (I call it a palace because surely my finials would make it so).

*Eric Gunstone*

## MURRAY RIVER CRUISE STARTING TUESDAY 11 OCTOBER 2022

-Jim Stockton

A group of us who have previously cruised on the Murray River in pre-pandemic times are thinking about another informal trip next spring. Please note that it is just a group of people who have chosen to cruise in company.



So far, we have people who plan to row and motor. There are also people interested in kayaking. Any sort of watercraft is welcome.

The proposed route is from Yarrawonga to Tocumwal. This is a distance of 100km by river. If we average 20km each day this will give us a trip of five days. There may also be some current if water is being released which will help us on our way. Although the proposed daily distance is modest compared to some of the previous efforts, some of us are out of practice and this will ease us back into river cruising.

The proposed starting date is Tuesday 11 October with participants meeting up in Yarrawonga on Monday 10 October. The proposed finishing date is Saturday 15 October. This time avoids the school holidays in NSW and Victoria.



There are numerous camping grounds along this stretch of the river, and a sizeable town at Cobram which has a full range of facilities. There are also a number of sandy beaches which look tempting and could provide peaceful camping spots. We are operating on the

usual assumptions that each boat will be self-contained for all the important things like food, water, fuel and maintenance.





The entire route is covered by the maps in the booklet titled *Murray River Access Yarrawonga, Mulwala, Cobram-Barooga, Tocumwal, Ulupna Island* published by Spatial Vision. Most of the route is covered by the 1:100,000 sheet titled *Berrigan*.

### If you are interested in joining the trip:

If you are interested in hearing more about the proposed trip, please contact Jim Stockton via email at [jimstockton1@gmail.com](mailto:jimstockton1@gmail.com) and I will add you to the distribution list.



*Jim Stockton*

### Carving Group, August/September

Friday, 5 August '22

We had a full house today with 8 keen carvers roll up to our Carving Group. Alwyn was in full production mode with his Welsh love spoon project, he has 4 on the go using western red cedar, all destined as gifts for family members. We welcomed Maike back after holidays, she has been working on a large owl which though challenging given it's size is really starting to shape. Kevin has been working on a range of small carving projects and today he was focusing on a gnome character. We also welcomed back Jane after some time caring for her family, she was also working on a gnome carving as was I! (bit of a theme going there!) Steve had been very busy in his home workshop with a number of (again!) gnome carvings and in addition, had built a couple of custom boxes to fit both his growing gnome collection and another to house his range of carving tools and other (work in progress) carving projects. Today, he was working on his 'mark 2' Moi Easter Island figurine. Meanwhile David was continuing on with his Owl silhouette which is near completion and as always Hank continued on with his production line of spoons in various shapes and sizes.



### Jack Makokoji Religious Relief

**Friday 19 August '22**

It was a different crew who turned up for our Carving Group today. Whilst Alwyn, David and Hank were all away with other commitments, we welcomed back John Leahy and also Evan Gellert who introduced the group to Jack Makokoji, a new member to our club. Both Evan and Jack were checking out what our group was getting up to and promised to come to our next carving session equipped with projects to join in. John got down to work on a gnome figurine 'totem' that he had designed to fit onto a walking stick. Maïke had a few projects on the go with two small tea spoons which she had carefully measured up exactly to size. She also spent time on her Owl carving and doing some fine tuning of a framed horse's head project. I continued on with my little gnome and cut out my next project, a second 'wise man' for my long-term Nativity Scene project. Meanwhile, both Kevn and Jane continued with their gnome character carvings and Steve had turned his attention to an Owl carving one of his many projects on the go.



**John Leahy Totem walking stick top**



**Maïke hard at work on her owl**

**Friday 2 September '22**

Our group is growing, as we had 9 carvers on hand for the Carving Group today and this does not include both Jane and David who were both away.



David was enjoying a visit to members of his family in NSW and we wished Jane well as she gets through her operation and recovery. So, returning to the carving activity, Evan and Jack had both returned to join in with their projects as promised with Evan working on a relief carving of a platypus and Jack refining a religious scene in a relief carving that was very impressive. Maïke did some more work on her Owl carving and showed us a beautiful little mouse that she had finished at home. Steve had turned his attention to a 3D Dinosaur carving and John continued on with his gnome figurine totem. Meanwhile, Kevin was working on a little elephant carving and Alwyn was working on another Welsh love spoon for a family member. Hank was again working on a range of spoon carvings and I started work on my wise man carving which is the 8th piece of a 15 piece Nativity set that I'm progressively (slowly!) getting done.

Overall, our Carving Group is in good health with now a total of 11 members.

*Rod Gorfine*



## DWC CLUB Workshop / Meeting Calendar:

EDWC Calendar 2022		SEPTEMBER		Active 01/09/2022		
Sunday 28th August	Monday 29th August	Tuesday 30th August	Wednesday 31st August	Thursday 1st September	Friday 2nd September	Saturday 3rd September
	<b>Mentoring</b>	<b>Open Workshop</b>		<b>Open Workshop</b>	<b>Carving</b>	<b>Open Workshop</b>
	Charlie Camera: 0413481699	9:00am – 1:30 pm		9:00am – 1:00 pm	9:00am - 5:00pm	9:00am – 1:00 pm
	9:30 - 11:30 am	Colin Groves: 0417563699		Paul Rushton	Alwyn Wainwright	TBA
		<b>Instrument Group Session</b>		<b>Turning</b>		
		1:00 - 4:00pm		1:00 - 4:00pm		
		Frank Camera: 0427964254		Tony Orbe		
		<b>Open Workshop</b>				
		6:30- 8:00pm				
		Peter Davey NB text Peter by midday on 0421 544 115 to confirm attendance				
Sunday 4th September	Monday 5th September	Tuesday 6th September	Wednesday 7th September	Thursday 8th September	Friday 9th September	Saturday 10th September
	<b>Mentoring</b>	<b>Open Workshop</b>		<b>Open Workshop</b>		<b>Open Workshop</b>
	Charlie Camera: 0413481699	9:00am – 1:30 pm		9:00am – 1:00 pm		9:00am – 1:00 pm
	9:30 - 11:30 am	Colin Groves 0417 563 699		Paul Rushton: 04170173437		Toby Grant: 0488994741
		<b>Instrument Group Session</b>		<b>Turning</b>		Colin Groves: 0417563699
		1:00 - 4:00pm		1:00 - 4:00pm		
		Frank Camera:		Tony Orbe:		
Sunday 11th September	Monday 12th September	Tuesday 13th September	Wednesday 14th September	Thursday 15th September	Friday 16th September	Saturday 17th September
<b>Scroll Saw</b>	<b>Mentoring</b>	<b>Open Workshop</b>		<b>Open Workshop</b>	<b>Carving</b>	<b>Box Making</b>
9:30 am – 4:00pm	Charlie Camera: 0413481699	9:00am – 1:30 pm		9:00am – 1:00 pm	9:00am - 5:00pm	9:30 - 1:00pm
Steve Mitchener	9:30 - 11:30 am	Colin Groves 0417 563 699		Paul Rushton: 04170173437	Alwyn Wainwright	John Brownrigg: 0409145516
		<b>Instrument Group Session</b>	<b>Committee</b>			
		1:00 - 4:00pm	7:30-9:00pm	<b>Turning</b>		
		Frank Camera:		1:00 - 4:00pm		
		<b>Open Workshop</b>		Tony Orbe:		
		6:30- 8:00pm				
		Peter Davey NB text Peter by midday on 0421 544 115 to confirm attendance				
Sunday 18th September	Monday 19th September	Tuesday 20th September	Wednesday 21st September	Thursday 22nd September	Friday 23rd September	Saturday 24th September
	<b>Mentoring</b>	<b>Open Workshop</b>		<b>Open Workshop</b>		<b>Open Workshop</b>
	Charlie Camera: 0413481699	9:00am – 1:30 pm		9:00am – 1:00 pm		9:00am – 1:00 pm
	9:30 - 11:30 am	Colin Groves 0417 563 699		Paul Rushton: 04170173437		Colin Groves: 0488994741
		<b>Instrument Group Session</b>	<b>Exhibition Comm</b>	<b>Turning</b>		Toby Grant: 0417563699
		1:00 - 4:00pm	Adrian DesFontaines	1:00 - 4:00pm		
		Frank Camera:		Tony Orbe:		
Sunday 25th September	Monday 26th September	Tuesday 27th September	Wednesday 28th September	Thursday 29th September	Friday 30th September	Saturday 1st October
<b>Pyrography</b>	<b>Mentoring</b>	<b>Open Workshop</b>		<b>Open Workshop</b>		<b>Open Workshop</b>
9:30am – 4:00pm	Charlie Camera: 0413481699	9:00am – 1:30 pm		9:00am – 1:00 pm		9:00am – 1:00 pm
Steve Mitchener	9:30 - 11:30 am	Colin Groves 0417 563 699		Paul Rushton: 04170173437		TBA
		<b>Instrument Group Session</b>		<b>Turning</b>		
		1:00 - 4:00pm		1:00 - 4:00pm		
		Frank Camera		Tony Orbe:		

### FUTURE EVENTS

Working Bee Saturday 13th September 9.00 - 12.00

**VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED**

Bunnings Eltham Sausage Sizzle 23rd October 8.30. - 5.00

Eltham Mall raffle ticket stall and display 29th & 30th October

Times yet to be confirmed

Whittlesea Show 5th & 6th November, 2022

## That Apple and Sultana Cake:



Morning tea break at the club on the cleanup day organized by our vice president Colin, and on the table in the middle of the kitchen was a very nice apple and sultana cake. Enjoyed by all – didn't last very long! So, Pam thought she would share the recipe. And here it is, make and enjoy.

Peel and cut up 3 to 4 apples into small cubes.

Throw some sultanas on the top ... as much as you want ... I use about 1 cup and sprinkle with brown sugar, mix together and leave in a bowl, anything from 1/2 hour to overnight. The sugar draws out the juice from the fruit.

To make the cake: Cream together about 125gm butter with 1 cup sugar,

And a bit of vanilla essence, and you can add the lemon rind and sherry or sweet wine if you wish.

Add 2 eggs and 1 3/4 cups SR Flour. Beat together and add to the Apple mix. Place in a cake tin and bake for approximately 1 hour at around 175 deg.

This recipe always seems to work regardless of whatever I do to alter it

It is even better the next day with some cream and/or ice-cream.

All enjoyed it so happy to share the recipe.

*Pam*

## Newsletter Contributions

Thank you to: Adrian Desfontaines, John Brownrigg, Charles Camera, Steve Hood, Jim Stockton, Jane Hammett, Steve Mitchener, Wes Weight, Pam Trento, David Brooks, Eric Gunstone and Rod Gorfine.

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

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

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

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