

ELTHAM AND DISTRICT WOODWORKERS CLUB

The Eltham Woodworker CLUB NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2021



Reg. Number A0025947P

EDWC Office Bearers			
John Brownrigg		Charles Camera	Peter Davey
President	Vice President	Secretary	Treasurer
0409 145 516		9434 2269	9439-4889

Board Members		
Kim Webster	Raman Rao	David Brooks
Rado Staric	Adrian Desfontaines	



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

Presidents Report:

Welcome all.

I hope you are all well and enjoying your woodworking.

We continue to have difficulties with the dust extraction supplier which has put the completion back. PLEASE exercise care when in the club rooms as clearly there are some bits which stick out or are as yet too low. It shouldn't be long now (says he fingers crossed!)

We are still working to sort out some sense of a return to normalcy as Covid and vaccination progress. We are returning to evening meetings beginning with the AGM and May meetings on May 5th. The venue will be our clubrooms and hopefully it will be "standing room only".

If you know someone who has difficulty night driving, perhaps you could offer a lift or arrange for someone to assist.

Our almoner Alwyn Wainwright has been checking in with a few members who are unwell. If you know of a member who is unwell and might benefit from contact please let Alwyn know.

Information: if you wish information about club operations, planning, upcoming events or indeed any club information, contact a member of the committee. We are happy to provide whatever you need and suggestions are always welcome. Meeting notes are on the next page.

I look forward to seeing more of you at the Club.

John Brownrigg

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From the Secretary

New Members

We are possibly having the largest influx of new members ever and the following are the latest group to join - **Andrew Wang, Oscar Ruiz, Soo Hoon Chua and Natalia Auguste**. Another group is in the process of joining and we are now asking new applicants to wait whilst we clear the backlog.

New members are very welcome and without which clubs tend to wither off. The process of integrating them into our club and providing the mandatory safety training is a big task which is currently done by too few members – notably Barry Lay and Ramon Rao. The success of a club is dependant on members giving back at least as much as they take out and in this regard we again ask for volunteers to assist with machine and safety training. Volunteers with the requisite knowledge will be trained to be trainers. Please contact the committee if you can at all help out.

Around the Workshop This Month

The club has a great deal of of seldom used tools and resources which are available for general use. Some of the tools are -

Hand Routers – we have a large Triton and a small Makita which should be used for profiling edges in situations where a job on the router table is difficult or impossible. These are stored in the tool room and use the bits stored next to the table router.

Power planer – this is a recent addition after a donation. – Power planers are no replacement for hand planes used for fine work, as they are more often used in building where large amounts of timber need to be hogged off for fitting door jambs and in framing. However there are situations where timber is very rough and impossible to manhandle on our jointer. In one recent very successful application Vincent Galanti used the club's machine to clean up curved timber for his easels featured below.

There is a rule regarding the borrowing of tools to take home – the rule is DON'T.

John Harrington was particularly taken with this tip from Australian Woodsmith magazine and has submitted it to share. This is a very simple but very effective looking jig that would not only make routing thin sections a much easier task but also MUCH SAFER. This is definitely on the to do list for the club's router.



Woodworking magazines are a great source of ideas and inspiration but there are only so many magazines to which one can justify a subscription not to mention the cost. BUT these days there is a way to read any number of magazines for free – all that is needed is to jump to the new age of E-readers and join your local library. The YPRL (Yarra Plenty Regional Library) now has a free E- reader that is downloadable on a portable device such as Android or Ipad together with totally free access to more than 3,000 magazines from all around the world. These include a great many woodworking magazines such as Australian Wood Review and Australian Woodsmith. All that is needed is a current library card and a login that can be arranged with the librarian in any of the libraries operated by YPRL.

Here is a link to the site - <https://www.yprl.vic.gov.au/elibrary/>



Carving Group

The Carving Group had a full house on 19 March. 9 Carvers turned up and bench space was at a premium! A welcome return of Steve to the scene was acknowledged by one and all. He had his Wizard Theme carving on show and was working on a little owl with a quizzical expression sitting on a pole.

Sandra was putting some further finishing touches to her most excellent pelican and assisting new comer, Soo on her first project, a wooden spoon. Meanwhile, Alwyn continued on his work on a high relief tree carving and David worked away on a creation called a “_loose knot.”

Jane Goodall continued her work on her platypus under Sandra’s guidance and Hank continued his focus on his collection of spoons and an excellent Owl with very clever design use of the item’s wood grain.

Maike had a number of projects on the go. She was also developing her spoon making prowess whilst also completing some finishing touches to the back ground picture board that she had designed for her high relief soaring owl. Meanwhile, Rod was having a break from his Nativity set project (4 pieces done & 10 to go !) and having a go at a blue wren carving.

All enjoyed their day and look forward to the next session which will be after Easter.



Alwyn’s spoon carvings from huon pine a few years ago.

Hank Tyler Carving Group member



Some wonderful carvings by one of our newer, very talented member, Hank Tyler. Hank has six of his sandpiper carvings on display at the Mornington Peninsula Regional Gallery as part of the Overwintering Project: Westernport exhibition. *The Overwintering Project* is a long-term environmental art project that unites artists around Australia to raise awareness for our most endangered group of birds, migratory shorebirds, and their habitat.



Scrolling Saturday 6th March:

With Mr. Mitchener handling the reins, who actually brought his scroll saw along this time we opened the doors for the mad inrush of participants a bit before 9 and set up the machinery, where I unveiled the my new (let's talk about me for a minute or 2) scroll saw and folding leg stand that I whipped up over course of a day or 2 (again forgot to take photo's so I'll grab a couple this week) the saw is a Carbatec 16" that I found almost unused on Gumtree, it's an Excaliber knock off and seems to work OK. Steve gave it the thumbs up, so, not too bad. Just need to learn how to use it properly, practice I'm told, but I never listen.

Small turn out as before so after setting up and having Steve and Tony pull my leg about my stand design (at least I THINK they were joking) and having the obligatory chin wag and catch up we broke for smoko, can't be rushing into this work caper without the requisite caffeine levels.

Tony worked on a (couple?) of 3D Christmas decoration which looked pretty swish, I think Tony believes he needs a bit more practice (there's that word again) but I thought it looked good, then a couple more of his puzzles that we saw last month – really nice stuff..

Unfortunately I really can't remember what Steve was on, something intricate I'm sure. He did spend a lot of time helping me with a 3D cut out of a ship and anchor, which didn't turn out TOO bad but the blade followed the growth ring in the pine at a delicate part and took off a bit too much off the top but I got the idea just need to find some suitable wood.



Jennifer strolled in just in time for lunch and after setting up and stoking the boiler continued on with some coasters she's working on for a friend, Jen was kind enough to send a couple of photo's as I neglected to take them at the time – again, they look even better in real life. Hopefully she'll put them up on the facebook page and really show them off.

Well that's all folks, if you were there and I've forgotten, I apologise. Next time I'll take a couple more photos, possibly ☺

Thursday Arvo Turning Tragics – March:

The action has picked up a little on Thursday Turning with Adrian DesFontaines and Russell Wanklyn turning up to turn, Tom, Eric and Rod and of course Tony our Keyholder and myself.

Adrian and Russell were both looking to get some instruction in the money pit that is turning. We ran Adrian thru using the Tormek sharpening jigs while Russell watched on then turned Adrian loose on the lathe where he roughed a square spindle down to round and started practicing (that word keeps popping up doesn't it) his beads and coves, the first step in learning, it can get a bit monotonous but it's surprising how often you'll just throw a stick on and see if you can improve your tool control. Unfortunately Russell had to wait for the following week, he needed to read the safety stuff for the lathes, pretty straightforward but needs doing, he did get stuck in the following week with a vengeance and produced the obligatory B's & C's.

Just a reminder that before you use the lathes ensure you've been signed off on the skills matrix first, have a look on the newsletter for turning times and contact numbers and contact one of those guys, they'll either run you thru the procedures, or tell you who can, and get you signed off it, only takes a few hours to reach a safe and basic competence level.

Eric has been working on a nice lidded box and goblet and bought in a vase made from a Yellow Box crotch. Rod has continued with the twig pot theme but has broken into Banksia pod, which look great. Tony's been sharpening quite a bit getting a good shape on his new scraper (money pit, remember) and a pen or two and all I've been doing is boring old honey dippers.



Tony and Russell
Having a quick ponder



Rod's Banksia nut
Twig Pot



Eric's Yellow Box Crotch

EDWC Box Making – March 2021 and 17th April 2021 following clean up day.

Celebrations are due! Adrian and I turned up for box making in March. Attendance has been quiet since the Covid blight hit us and it seems that members are a little hesitant about coming back.

So: box making – is essentially fine joint work. If you want to build instruments or to just be a better woodworker, boxes are a great place to start. You can make boxes without power tools or safety training. Yes, that's correct. It's a great place for new members to start.

We have samples of some of the many joints you can create (see photo), courtesy of a sample set purpose built by Steve Mitchener. New members, come along to see what you can build, you'll be surprised.

I look forward to seeing you there.

[John Brownrigg \(0409145516\)](mailto:John.Brownrigg@edwc.org.au)



Bunnings Discounts: Through our membership of the Men's Shed Association, we have access to the Bunnings Power Pass card. In effect, I reckon it offers a "trade" discount of about 5%, which is not huge, but if you're in Bunnings as much as I am, that can add up. I applied via the Bunnings site, quoting the wood club as the home organisation.

[John Brownrigg](mailto:John.Brownrigg@edwc.org.au)



The story of a fine EDWC member:



Barry Lay, esteemed member of the EDWC, friend to all and a most helpful and knowledgeable woodworker to know and have at the club. I wanted to write a short biography but he tells it well himself. So here it is:

I was born in 1937 at the Women's Hospital to Ray and Margaret Lay. The first short period of my life was spent in Ballan on a small mixed farm belonging to my Dad's family. We moved to Melbourne as Ray obtained a job as a greenkeeper at the Latrobe golf club, where he worked for the rest of his working life.

A young Barry Lay, about 8 or 9 years old.

We moved around quite a bit in those days, eventually finishing up in Eltham, the war intervened and when Ray was "called up" my mother and I moved to what I can remember as a very cold Marysville, where she had a job working at a guest house.

With the war over Ray came back to his greenkeeping job and we lived again in Eltham, this time on the corner of Dalton St and Main road, and I was able to go home for lunch from the Eltham Primary School, what a luxury. My sister Lynette was born about this time too. A few years later it was time for my secondary education and the Collingwood Technical School it was. Four years at the "tech" was my lot, and it was a pretty tough school. During that period my parents arranged for a new home to be built, and we shifted into that on my fifteenth birthday.

My social life was largely what kids in Eltham did in those days, cricket or footy in the street, or larking about down by the Diamond Creek. Eventually I became a regular member of the "Young People's Club". We had lots of trips to lots of places, Saturday night dances, and generally enjoying life. I was working as an apprentice joiner by this time, travelling down to Alphington on the train each day.

The Young People's Club turned out to be a bit of a marriage factory, and Vera and I caught the disease. By this time I was working for a kitchen cabinet maker in Montmorency, and I bought a block of land in Napoleon St. We were married on grand final day in 1960 and moved into our just built home a week after coming back from our honeymoon, touring to Bright and Canberra amongst other places. By 1966 we had three children; Kerrie, Robyn and Rod.



Wedding day, September 1960

The cabinet maker I was with was struggling in the credit squeeze of 1961, and I worked for some time in the chair making factory next door. They were also about to go under and an opportunity arose to supply one of their former customers. So a couple of rascals and myself set up business in West Heidelberg, trading as Westberg Furniture. We worked long hours at first, especially when one of the partners cut his finger while working a spindle moulder. The business prospered and two of us moved to a larger factory, and began to take on more complex work. Unfortunately my remaining partner contracted Hodgkins disease, and eventually passed away. His share was sold to one of our customers, a lounge and dining manufacturer. I continued to run the business which by then employed thirty six people.



In 1976 Vera and I went on a so called study tour to Europe, and this whetted our appetite for more overseas travel later, by then we were living in Greensborough on a couple of acres, and my parents lived at our place to look after the kids for six weeks. We gathered all the necessary accoutrements for family life, a pony, a dog, a cat and motor bikes etcetera. The three kids went off to school at Ivanhoe Grammar, and we were skint for a few years paying school fees. Then the eldest daughter went off to Brisbane University to study veterinary science, but she helped with the cost by taking part time work.

Barry at work in the garage workshop

Later my business partner and I fell out over the direction of the business, and eventually he bought out my share. I took some time off work, built a new kitchen, and an extension to the house. Vera was involved with the local tennis club, running the junior teams as well as playing a couple of times a week. Boredom was setting in for me. So it was back to work. I took a couple of jobs managing furniture factories, but more demanding work was in the offing. A bedding company wanted someone to set up a bedroom furniture operation. I started with a small number of employees and the business grew quickly. That work lasted me until retirement in 1997. Retirement was a name only and I continued to do consulting and other jobs for some years.



But at the same time I discovered the Eltham and District Woodwork Club and the double garage at home became my workshop. I went to the club each Tuesday to dispense doubtful wisdom for many years, and if I had the energy would still be doing so, what a find that was, a heap of new friends to associate with.

Barry's chair making group at the club

Vera and I have had three moves from our Greensborough couple of acres, two of them virtually next door. Our latest move was to Leith Park Retirement Village in St Helena, that was six years ago, and we do not regret the move at all. We now have the miserable total of three grandchildren, and they are doing well.



60 years on and still those same lovely smiles.

A very interesting life story, Barry is still a very dedicated member of the club and willing to help in any way he can. He has recently assisted with the setup and running of a Men's Shed at the Leith Park Retirement Village and is kept very busy there assisting the members with their woodworking and lately on a renovation and expansion project on their workshop.

He also forgot to mention that he and Vera have been very dedicated lawn bowlers for more than 30 years and both have also been busy holding many active committee positions at the Montmorency Bowling Club.

Three fine examples of Barry's workmanship as an EDWC (and home garage) woodworker. A Brush Box drawer cabinet, a recycled Sugar Pine cabinet and a lovely table and six chairs. The latter made especially for Vera. Anyone who has seen any of Barry's furniture pieces up close would agree that it is always the most beautiful and faultless work.



Interesting use of some not so commonly recycled timber:

I have seen most of our club members using all kinds of recycled timber for many different projects over the years, but this is a first. Vincent Galante has used old wine barrel staves to create some very interesting easels. Amazing how the old staves in the first picture on the left have cleaned up to make the rather fine looking easels pictured here. And they really do look right at home in Vincent's fine mud brick home setting.



EDWC CLUB Workshop / Meeting Calendar:

Thanks Steve Hood for the new layout.

		WEEK 1	WEEK 2	WEEK 3	WEEK 4			WEEK 1	WEEK 2	WEEK 3	WEEK 4
SUNDAY	9 AM				PYROGRAPHY	THURSDAY	9 AM				
	10 AM						10 AM	OPEN SHOP	OPEN SHOP	OPEN SHOP	OPEN SHOP
	11 AM						11 AM				
	12 PM						12 PM				
	1 PM						1 PM				
	2 PM						2 PM	TURNING	TURNING	TURNING	TURNING
	3 PM						3 PM				
	4 PM						4 PM				
	5 PM						5 PM				
6 PM				6 PM							
7 PM				7 PM							
8 PM				8 PM							
MONDAY	9 AM	MENTOR	MENTOR	MENTOR	MENTOR	FRIDAY	9 AM	CARVING	TURNING	CARVING	TURNING
	10 AM						10 AM				
	11 AM						11 AM				
	12 PM						12 PM				
	1 PM				1 PM						
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	5 PM				5 PM						
6 PM				6 PM							
7 PM				7 PM							
8 PM				8 PM							
TUESDAY	9 AM	OPEN SHOP	OPEN SHOP	OPEN SHOP	OPEN SHOP	SATURDAY	9 AM	SCROLL SAW	OPEN SHOP	BOX/ INSTR MAKING	OPEN SHOP
	10 AM						10 AM				
	11 AM						11 AM				
	12 PM						12 PM				
	1 PM				1 PM						
	2 PM				2 PM						
	3 PM				3 PM						
	4 PM				4 PM						
	5 PM				5 PM						
6 PM				6 PM							
7 PM	TURNING		TURNING +5th Tues	BOX/ INSTR MAKING	7 PM						
8 PM		8 PM									
9 AM		WES' SHOP			WES' SHOP	WES' SHOP	WES' SHOP				
10 AM	BOX/ INSTR MAKING		EXHIBITION COMMITTEE								
11 AM											
12 PM											
1 PM											
2 PM											
3 PM											
4 PM											
5 PM											
6 PM											
7 PM											
8 PM			COMMITTEE								
BOX/INSTRUMENT MAKING - John Brownrigg & Frank Camera											
CARVING - Alwyn Wainwright & Sandra Dean						PYROGRAPHY & SCROLL SAW - Steve Mitchener					
OPEN WORKSHOP - Mark Thompson											
MENTORING - Charlie Camera				TURNING - Tues/Brian Blethyn. Thurs/Tony Orbe. Fri/David Cowan							

EDWC Market Place

For Sale: An Hegner Multicut 1 variable speed scroll saw. This saw was purchased in 2016 and has only been used on average one day a month for club activities and demonstrations. It has been regularly maintained.

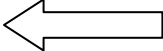
Additional attachments are included, eg a quick release clamp for internal cuts and a hold down. The new cost for the scroll saw and extras is approximately \$1800.

Also included is a table/stand, a light and blades.

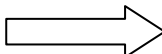
My asking price is \$1200. Remember the scroll saw has only had light work. **Please contact Beryl Watling on 0421 086 361 if you are interested.**



A view of the complete setup – saw, table and light.



The quick release clamp is the silver coloured knob and the hold down is the dark grey arm near the blade.

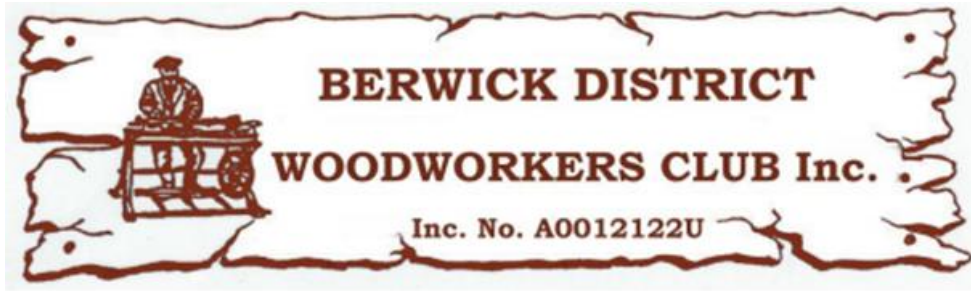


A side view of the scroll saw.

Message to all via our Web Page:

Message: Dear Sir/ Madam, Following the death of a member of Koonung Woodturners Guild (Charles Mercer), the family are having a large sale of woodworking and woodturning tools and equipment. As well as being an active woodturner, Charles was also a cabinet maker. Your members may be interested in attending to pickup some tools and equipment at bargain prices. Could you please pass this information onto your members. I acknowledge that it is short notice. The sale will be from 10am to 4pm on Sunday the 18th of April, 2021. The address is - 376 Maroodah Highway, North Croydon Regards, Graham Besley Secretary KWTG 0417 335 627

Notice of an upcoming event for a fellow woodworkers club



Berwick Woodworkers 1st Annual Woodworking Display and Expo

Saturday and Sunday 10-11 July 2021 9:00am – 5:00 pm

At the clubrooms: The Old Cheese Factory, 34 Homestead Rd., Berwick

More info: Len Preece: 0408365970, bdwwcsec@outlook.com

Newsletter Contributions

Thank you to: Charles Camera, John Brownrigg, Steve Hood

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: frankc01@tpg.com.au

Ph. 0427 964 254

Deadline for the May Newsletter will May 9th.

