

# *The Eltham Woodworker*

## CLUB NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2022



Reg. Number A0025947P



### 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 |

### Major Sponsors and supporters

#### **Bendigo Bank**

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



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

### Health Ability Project 2022

The EDWC has been well known over the years for the many voluntary programs run for different groups that need and appreciate the help and support. One of these long running programs is the annual Health Ability project, ably run for the past few years by Paul Rushton with many members assisting. The following is Paul's report on the 2022 program.

Once again the "HAP" is done and dusted for the year. We had a good selection of items to offer the clients of Health Ability and thanks to the members of our club we had more than enough supply. Everyone seemed pleased with the choices they made and really enjoyed putting them together with assistance from our members, as a further project they will be staining or painting the items to suit themselves and this gives them the satisfaction of finishing what they started.

I would like to thank the members of "EDWC" who gave their time and skills to make these items and then to spend the time helping the clients of Health Ability assembling them. Thank you all. This is appreciated by Health Ability Staff, EDWC, me personally and of course the clients who put them together to take them home.

Thanks for your support and we look forward to next year, with some different items hopefully, your ideas and input will be appreciated.

Thanks and Regards.

*Paul Rushton*

## Some pictures from this year's Health Ability project:



**Clockwise from the left are Peter Davey, Paul Rushton, David Green and Alwyn Wainwright assisting with the assembly of the various items available**



**Some of the group at work around the table.**

*Paul Rushton*



**Mark Thompson with some entertainment for a group as well as assisting with some of the assembly work.**

## President's Report - John Brownrigg

Hello All,

As always, I hope you are all safe and well. I hate harping on this but please everyone, do what you may to stay Covid safe.

Nillumbik Council has a team which focuses on positive ageing. We met with this team and will explore possible benefits for both.

The next General Meeting will be in September as previously advised. Yell if you need information or assistance.

Preparations for the Wattle Festival, the Whittlesea Show and our exhibition at the Eltham Rotary Festival continue. Please put aside a little time to offer and deliver some assistance. That doesn't mean you have to lift heavy things. You might do a demo, write some tickets, organise a sale etc.

We have recently had another issue with access to the Club. Someone came in, used the table saw without another person present and didn't clean up when they left.

First point: bad manners. Tidy as you go.

Second point: very unsafe. No-one is to work solo at the Club.

We will change access to the lock box so that access will be via a keyholder or session leader. Draconian? Perhaps but essentially safe, which is the keystone here. The Committee will continue to monitor access to the Club to ascertain the best outcome for all.

There's a fair bit going on around the Club at the moment and hopefully you are all madly making items for display and sale at the upcoming events where sales are allowed. Your level of skill should not hold you back.

Regards,

John Brownrigg 0409 145516

## Around the Workshop August 2022 – Charles Camera

After a great deal of work preparing our case against Eziduct Pty Ltd and waiting so long for the case to come up for hearing, "we have hit the wall". They have sold off their business assets to Nederman Holdings AB a Swedish multinational company and have wound down their listing. As a result we cannot continue our claim via VCAT. This is very disappointing but we move on in the hope that the new owners are a class above the poor service and treatment we experienced.

The drill press, which has had constant use over many years, had me stumped recently when I was asked to help change the speed. I quickly realised that I had no idea how to do it – at least properly. As a result I have prepared a "cheat sheet" (after resorting to the manual) to display behind it. It turns out that there is a trick in that there is a lock on BOTH sides of the pulley housing. In the course of investigating the matter it also transpired that there is provision for lighting to illuminate the job. This now works after the installation of a light bulb so look out for the light switch on the front.

The docking saw is back in operation after the replacement of the lower fence components. Over time they had been bent and broken in places suggesting that there are still incidences of catching which can be dangerous. **Please reread the safety manual regarding safe operation if you are unsure about safe cutting of irregular shaped timber.** The safety shield is also very erratic and may need some new components which are under consideration.



Elsewhere the “small” bandsaw has still been causing problems with blade breakages and during the month required a fifth new blade after another “spontaneous break”. The problem was thought to be caused by poor welds on the blade but may actually have been due to malfunctioning lower guide rollers which were jammed. These have been replaced and the whole guide system realigned– here’s hoping!! There is still a disconcerting wobble when it is running which may be due to deformed tyres. This is being investigated as the committee has agreed to spend money on fixing the issue even though it is not a serious problem.

The drum sander has had a lot of use and there have been several incidences of torn medium. Replacing the sanding medium is very tricky and it needs some specialised know how that clearly not everyone has. The picture shows the situation last Thursday morning after someone replaced the front drum sanding medium. There is a gap in the spiral at one end and overlap at the other. In addition the person / persons that did the operation left a the torn strip in a mess on the floor! Maintenance carries certain responsibilities – incorrect adjustments or fittings can cause serious machine damage **and can imperil the safety of others**. For that reason we have always restricted maintenance to those authorised especially on such items as bandsaw blade replacements and adjustments. In addition **all incidents are required to be logged in the attendance log sheet** (this was not logged). In future please call me or a committee member in regard to all breakdowns.



*Charles Camera - Secretary*

## **Mentoring Monday Group July 2022**

Some of the regulars have been on leave this month, one unfortunately due to illness, but a cheerful crew have been turning up. Jim Stockton is still making mysterious contraptions although this time I decoded his work – can anyone else work out a nautical use for the item in the picture??



Sylvester is pushing his luck with cross joined timber on an exquisite cutting board and everyone else is beaver away on their long term projects. Jane Hammett is almost there with her stools – very exciting for a monumental first project and Rod Gorfine is nearing completion on his toy barn.



At the mentoring sessions I have tried to get everyone on board with “modern joinery” as I am one of those that believe the “means justifies the end”. That is to say, why sweat over traditional mortise and tenon joinery when the Festool can do the job in a fraction of the time. And after the join is glued, no one can ever know how it was done. Not so others, however, as there are always the “traditionalists” who derive great pleasure from skilful joinery, eschewing the lazy methods of which I champion. On a recent Saturday I caught Toby Grant out in the act of fitting together his exquisitely cut traditional mortises and tenons.

It has been some time since I last saw woodworking on this level up close. Toby explained he knew about domino joinery but he couldn't see the fun in it compared to his hand cut joinery. Oh well what can I say?



**Toby Grant dry fits his traditional mortise and tenon joint.**



**Rod Gorfine shows Christine Hand how the roof will fit on his grandchildren's play animal barn.**

*Charles Camera*

## Thursday Afternoon Turning, July – Steve Hood

Thursday afternoon turners have bin turnin' while I just sat around drinking tea and doing paperwork.



Tony made a nice little bowl from an old table leg and a cheese knife made from a piece of mystery wood given to him by Wes.



A really nice little vase?/Bowl? From Tom made from a piece of pine he rescued from the firewood pile, live edge around the rim and finished off really well – as usual. ►



◄A 'Folly' – his word not mine – the idea is for the inner shape to follow the outer shape, skilfully done here by Rod.







◀ And a Huon Pine bowl, again by Rod with nice burned detailing on the rim.

A Japanese influenced lidded box made from an apple branch with red Stringybark insert and lid, the vase is from a piece of persimmon Eric's neighbour threw over the fence for him. ▶



◀ Vase in a Eucalypt with some of the bark on the outside for contrast.

This bowl is a turned burl, from guy at Whittlesea men's shed, which had been burned in a bushfire, and when I turned it, it was like it had been fractal burned leaving loose charcoal pieces ▶

where the gaps are, probably from softer wood, so I call it the Burned Burl Bowl. Also from Eric.



***Steve Hood***

## **Request from Jim Stockton**



### **Folding Step Stool plans**

Could you please include this photo of a step stool in the newsletter with a request for anyone who knows of plans for a similar design to contact me? I've been asked to make one for a friend who has moved into a smaller unit in which space is at a premium and there are shelves that she cannot reach.

There are many images of step stools on the internet, in which the step rotates out of the way to form a simple stool. However, I have not been able to find any scaled drawings or detailed plans.

Thanks.

***Jim Stockton***

## Working Bee - Saturday 13th August



The working bee will now take place on Saturday, 13th August starting at 9.00am with a sausage sizzle at 12.00pm. The main aim of the working bee will be to clean and tidy around the outside of our building. We will be cleaning out the container, in an effort to find the signs for our exhibition (our first in 3 years). The container holds much ply wood, which all members are very welcome to take. We will also be painting the outside of the

container. It will be easier to spray paint the container - if you have a spray gun we can use, please contact Colin Groves on 0417 563 699. We will be using acrylic paint. Needed: wheel barrows, mowers, brush cutters, rakes, shovels, outside brooms, etc.



**Colin Groves**

## Carving Group Report: Friday, 15<sup>th</sup> July

We had 6 keen carvers roll up to our Carving Group today, missing were Kevin, Maike and Jane, the latter two with health challenges.

Nevertheless, the assembled carvers quickly got down to work on their various projects. Alwyn was working on Welsh Love Spoons which were based on the 'genuine' article with a spoon bought by his wife on a trip to Wales in 1980. As always Alwyn was expertly crafting 2 replicas and was well on the way to completion before we finished our session.



I continued with my little gnome benefiting from Maike's stencil cut outs and instructions from a recent weekend carving retreat (or gnome carving 'festival'!!) that she had attended.

Steve was continuing to refine his 'Moi' (Easter Island) statue as well as bringing a number of older projects in for 'show and tell' (he'd been raiding his workshop you see and discovered some cherished older carvings). He brought in one of his first gnomes as well as a Bi-Plane that he'd completed in 1980. Further, as ever, proving him to be the master of the miniatures, he displayed some tiny work boots, rocking horse, a dog and a 'helping hand' carvings. (Each not much larger than a one dollar coin!)





Meanwhile, Jason continued with his spoons, doing some great work and David was working on a silhouette carving of an owl, one of the many interesting variations within the craft of carving. Hank was also in full flight with his production line of spoons using American Cherry Wood. As an added note, the group has recently benefitted greatly from Hank's US contacts with a recently arrived order of 10 packs of 'Rifflers' that a good many of us have purchased. In essence they are a pack of three specially designed and crafted carving files with numerous file surfaces and file shapes to enable application on a range of carving tasks.

Till next time

Rod Gorfine on behalf of the Eltham & Districts Carving Group



## Pyrography Group Sunday July 24

We are still a small group, but we churn out some interesting stuff. That's between all the talking and chatting!

Beryl Watling decorated a small box with a rose in the corner. The box was worth \$5.00 when she bought it, (and I reckon the hinge and clasp would have cost more than that!) but it's worth a lot more now. ►



And Master Artist Maike Pritchard was working on her "Wombat in the Bush" scene. Makes my designs look very simplistic. ◀



And Kevin Sevier was doing a face on ply. The human face is not the easiest thing to portray, because they are all so bloody different! But Kevin not only drew the original, he carried off a good likeness here in Pyrography, which is very new to Kevin. Well done mate! ►



And I was casually working on my "gear box". It's almost finished now. Once it's painted I will throw in another picture so you can see how it turned out. ◀



And there will be no Pyrography in August, as we will all either be supporting the Wattle Festival or off doing "family things". We are definitely a busy bunch.

**Steve Mitchener**



## 2022 Exhibition Update – Volunteers Needed – Please Consider

They say it “*takes a village to raise a child*”, the same could be said for running a successful woodworking exhibition in 2022 😊

Volunteers for are required for the rapidly approaching events below . **Please reach out** to the listed points of contact.

- Sunday 28th August Wattle Festival **Colin Groves 0417 563 699**
- 1st weekend in November Whittlesea Show **Tony Orbe 0407 050 723**
- 12-13<sup>th</sup> November Eltham & Districts Woodworkers Annual Exhibition **Adrian Desfontaines 0414 795 347**

Many thanks to Peter Davey for getting 3,800 raffle tickets to the printers. These should become available to club members within the week either by being picked up at the club or in the mailed.

- Given that we’ve had a three year hiatus we need to make every effort to sell all of these tickets which shouldn’t be too big an ask with the exceptional prizes on offer this year.  
**Peter Davey 0421 544 115**
- If anyone has **digital photos from previous years exhibitions please email them to [desfonta07@gmail.com](mailto:desfonta07@gmail.com)** or text 0414 795 347. We are currently developing a **promotional flyer** which include pictures of this years raffle prizes and demonstrations from years past.
- The 30 or so wooden plinths that our exhibits rest upon @ the Eltham Reception and Community Centre are in need of a coat of high gloss white paint. I’ve spoken to Heather and Michael from the centre, and we can get access to paint the plinths **Tuesday to Friday**. Michael said that there are drop sheets so the plinths can be painted indoors.



▲ Exhibition demo room 2013

Kind Regards Adrian Desfontaines 0414 795 347



▲ Wattle Festival site 2010

- With regards to volunteers for the annual exhibition there will be a **roster system that will be set up over the next month or so**. Please speak to the session leader of the workshops you attend during the week to see what jobs & time slots need filling.  
**More updates to follow and many thanks in advance for your help.**

**Whittlesea show 2018 ►**



## Scrollsaw Group Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> July

The Scrollsaw maniacs were all here and hard at it today. All working diligently on their various projects.

Chris Hand was cutting some hanging Xmas decorations, nothing like getting an early start for the Festive Season. Later in the day Chris cut out a heart-shaped jigsaw puzzle. The results are impressive considering her short time doing this sort of work. ►



Steve Hood was cutting a “spiral warp”, and making good progress until one of the thinner portions decided to totally separate from the project. Undaunted, Steve tossed it aside and moved on to a potpourri lid and some rather unique alphabet letters. They are letters within letters, and the doing was proving harder to master than the concept led him to believe. (Tricky stuff this scrollwork when you get involved in it.)



◄ Tony Orbe cut another 3D piece to add to his growing collection in Cypress Pine. It turned out beautifully, and it was by far the most technically difficult one he’s tackled so far. Well done Tony!

And Kevin Sevier cut a nice giraffe puzzle in Jarrah, and then moved on to a much larger elephant segmentation piece. It’s great to see the cutters all trying different techniques on the Scrollsaw. It not only challenges them, but also broadens their scope for the future.

As for me, apart from hovering around guiding everybody else in their activities, I was cutting some rather simple snake shapes. (I produce puzzles and animal shapes for a couple of ladies with an Internet sales site. It keeps me off the streets, and everything I make is already sold! I love it.) ►

**Steve Mitchener**



## EDWC Box making – July 2022

G’day. Sad to say that there are still only a few regular box makers turning up on the third Saturdays of the month.

We are seeing progress and sharing knowledge in what is one of the most basic yet can be one of the most exacting disciplines in woodworking. Get the joints wrong on a small box and it looks terrible, get it right and it’s a joy. After all, most things in woodwork tend to start life as a box.

There are also things such as boxes made on a bandsaw, or turned. There’s almost no limit to design other than those of utility and imagination.

If you check out works by Andrew Potocnik and Tony Hoffrichter you’ll see some of the variables. And check out the work of some of our own box makers such as Geoff and Steve. There are many others and you’ll see great work from them displayed at the exhibition in November. Just because your area of interest is one of the other disciplines, that doesn’t preclude box making, it can just help keep you sharp.

**Cheers, John B**



## Show and Tell



Recently I was involved with our activity at Health Ability in Eltham when I was asked if I would mind making a small wooden wheelbarrow for one of the clients. When shown the picture that was required I thought this would be an interesting small project. The entire wheel barrow was made out of scrap wood and overall I was quite pleased with the end result.

David Green

My brother gave me a couple of fence posts which turned out to be grey ironbark.

I made this jewelry box which has some nice shades.

Geoff Oliver



## Berwick Exhibition – Wes Weight

The Berwick Woodworkers had their Annual Exhibition early last month and Wes Weight went along to check it out and was very impressed with their workshop. He had many interesting photos and these are just a couple of the most interesting.



One view of their very extensive workshop and part of the exhibition.

Sorry Wes I could not fit any more in, the newsletter is already many pages.



## EDWC CLUB Workshop / Meeting Calendar:

| EDWC Calendar 2022                                   |                                   | AUGUST  | Active 01/08/2022  |   |                                     |  |
|--|-----------------------------------|---|--|---|-------------------------------------|--|
| Sunday 31st July                                     | Monday 1st August                 | Tuesday 2nd August  | Wednesday 3rd August   | Thursday 4th August   | Friday 5th August                   | Saturday 6th August                            |
|  | Mentoring                         | Open Workshop   | Wes's Workshop   | Open Workshop   | Carving                             | Open Workshop                                  |
|  | Charlie Camera<br>9:30 - 11:30 am | 9:00am - 1:30 pm<br>Colin Groves<br>Instrument Group Session<br>1:00 - 4:00pm<br>Frank Camera<br>Open Workshop<br>6:30- 8:00pm<br><br>Peter Davey NB text Peter<br>by midday on 0421 544<br>115 to confirm attendance | 9:00am - 12:00pm<br>Wes Weight   | 9:00am - 1:00 pm<br>Mark Thompson<br><br>Turning<br>1:00 - 4:00pm<br>Tony Orbe              | 9:00am - 5:00pm<br>Alwyn Wainwright | 9:00am - 1:00 pm<br>Toby Grant                 |
| Sunday 7th August                                    | Monday 8th August                 | Tuesday 9th August  | Wednesday 10th August  | Thursday 11th August  | Friday 12th August                  | Saturday 13th August                           |
|  | Mentoring                         | Open Workshop   | Wes's Workshop   | Open Workshop   |                                     | Open Workshop                                  |
|  | Charlie Camera<br>9:30 - 11:30 am | 9:00am - 1:30 pm<br>Colin Groves 0417 563 69<br>Instrument Group Session<br>1:00 - 4:00pm<br>Frank Camera   | 9:00am - 12:00pm<br>Wes Weight   | 9:00am - 1:00 pm<br>Colin Groves<br><br>Turning<br>1:00 - 4:00pm<br>Tony Orbe               |                                     | 9:00am - 1:00 pm<br>Toby Grant<br>Colin Groves |
| Sunday 14th August                                   | Monday 15th August                | Tuesday 16th August   | Wednesday 17th August  | Thursday 18th August  | Friday 19th August                  | Saturday 20th August                           |
| Scroll Saw<br>9:30 am - 4:00pm<br>Steve Mitchener    | Mentoring                         | Open Workshop   | Wes's Workshop   | Open Workshop   | Carving                             | Box Making                                     |
|  | Charlie Camera<br>9:30 - 11:30 am | 9:00am - 1:30 pm<br>Geoff Oliver<br>Instrument Group Session<br>1:00 - 4:00pm<br>Frank Camera<br>Open Workshop<br>6:30- 8:00pm<br><br>Peter Davey NB text Peter<br>by midday on 0421 544<br>115 to confirm attendance | 9:00am - 12:00pm<br>Wes Weight<br><br>Committee<br>7:30-9:00pm               | 9:00am - 1:00 pm<br>Jane Hammett<br>0408195965<br><br>Turning<br>1:00 - 4:00pm<br>Tony Orbe | 9:00am - 5:00pm<br>Alwyn Wainwright | 9:30 - 1:00pm<br>John Brownrigg                |
| Sunday 21st August                                   | Monday 22nd August                | Wednesday 23rd August   | Wednesday 24th August  | Thursday 25th August  | Friday 26th August                  | Saturday 27th August                           |
|  | Mentoring                         | Open Workshop   | Wes's Workshop   | Open Workshop   |                                     | Open Workshop                                  |
|  | Charlie Camera<br>9:30 - 11:30 am | 9:00am - 1:30 pm<br>Geoff Oliver<br>Instrument Group Session<br>1:00 - 4:00pm<br>Frank Camera   | 9:00am - 12:00pm<br>Wes Weight<br><br>Exhibition Comm<br>Adrian DesFontaines | 9:00am - 1:00 pm<br>Colin Groves<br><br>Turning<br>1:00 - 4:00pm<br>Tony Orbe               |                                     | 9:00am - 1:00 pm<br>Colin Groves<br>Toby Grant |
| Sunday 28th August                                   | Monday 29th August                | Tuesday 30th August   | Wednesday 31st August  | Thursday 1st September  | Friday 2nd September                | Saturday 3rd September                         |
| Pyrography<br>9:30am - 4:00pm<br>Steve Mitchener     | Mentoring                         | Open Workshop   | Wes's Workshop   | Open Workshop   | Carving                             | Open Workshop                                  |
|  | Charlie Camera<br>9:30 - 11:30 am | 9:00am - 1:30 pm<br>Colin Groves 0417 563 69<br>Instrument Group Session<br>1:00 - 4:00pm<br>Frank Camera   | 9:00am - 12:00pm<br>Wes Weight   | 9:00am - 1:00 pm<br>Paul Rushton<br><br>Turning<br>1:00 - 4:00pm<br>Tony Orbe               | 9:00am - 5:00pm<br>Alwyn Wainwright | 9:00am - 1:00 pm<br>Toby Grant                 |
| FUTURE EVENTS  |                                   |   |  |   |                                     |  |
| Hurstbridge Wattle Festival Sunday 28th August, 2022 |                                   |   |  |   |                                     |  |
| Whittlesea Show Saturday 5th - Sunday 6th November   |                                   |   |  |   |                                     |  |
| Bunnings Eltham BBQ 23rd October, 2022               |                                   |   |  |   |                                     |  |



## Big Group Hug – Bundoora

### WHO IS BIG GROUP HUG?

Big Group Hug is a volunteer driven not-for-profit organisation that works with local communities to respond to the immediate material needs of vulnerable and disadvantaged children and their families.

### HOW DO WE HELP?

We utilise social media and our volunteer network to mobilise people just like yourself, to put out a call to donate urgently needed items such as nappies, clothing, blankets, prams and high chairs etc.

### HOW DO WE DISTRIBUTE DONATIONS?

These donated items are then checked, sorted and distributed directly to families through Maternal and Child Health Workers and other community welfare agencies.

### CAN YOU HELP?

You may be able to donate new or pre-loved items (for newborn to teens), volunteer some of your time or make a financial contribution to support our ongoing work within your community.

If you'd like to help or know more about us, you can find us at:



admin@biggrouphug.org

or follow us at:

facebook.com/BigGroupHug    twitter.com/BigGroupHug

Hello all,

Annie has been volunteering for some time now with the Big Group Hug, supplying necessities directly to the vulnerable in our community.

They do good work and I believe are worthy of support.

Big Group Hug need a few volunteers to help clean pram and bike donations ready for redistribution. Skill level required is moderate, time commitment low.

Premises are in Bundoora, so not far.

Are you able to assist for a while?

If so contact the Huggers directly (brochure attached) or you can talk with Annie (0400 388458).

***John Brownrigg***

## Newsletter Contributions

Thank you to: Paul Rushton, John Brownrigg, Charles Camera, Steve Hood, Jim Stockton, Jane Hammett, Steve Mitchener, David Green, Geoff Oliver, Colin Groves, Wes Weight 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)

Ph. 0427 964 254

