

# ELTHAM AND DISTRICT WOODWORKERS CLUB

## The Eltham Woodworker CLUB NEWSLETTER



Reg. Number A0025947P

OCTOBER 2021

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### This month's Newsletter

That we are still able to produce a sizable monthly newsletter given the months of inactivity at the club is a great credit to a few of our regular contributors. Not sure of his songs or poems but Steve's regular woodturning and scrolling reports are excellent, can't wait to see them when we are back in full swing. Although not an obvious club activity, Jim's boatbuilding articles and pictures make very interesting reading, as does his articles on wood working tools. Wooden boat building is a very skilled art and I find the descriptions and pictures very interesting. Pity we do not have the room at the club for something like this.

You will also see some very interesting articles from our much esteemed member Barry Lay and relatively new club member Christine Hand.

Frank Camera, Editor

### President's Report - October 2021

Here we all are, still at home and hanging out to be back with our colleagues at EDWC. There are a couple of topics we need to address, but let's start with the elephant in the room, re-opening post Covid-19.

The Committee have discussed the pathway to re-opening when we are allowed, and have agreed that where possible we should follow government advice when it becomes available. That said, we still have a duty of care to our members and their well-being, and to fulfil this we need to limit as much as possible any potential for spread of Covid via the Club.



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



It is safe to say that our membership is in large part a vulnerable group and any step we can take to protect all members needs to be considered.

Therefore, double vaccination must be a requirement for return to the workshop. Even with double vaccination, it is still possible to be infected by, and to be a carrier of the virus, so all safety protocols will exist for some time to come. How we deal with medical exemptions still requires examination and we will advise the path as re-opening gets closer.

We need to consider the possible costs of “deep cleaning” if we get an active case in the club rooms. Similar clubs have mentioned costs of \$10k for that, and there are possible insurance implications to consider as well. Another local Men’s Shed has requested their members to consider double vaccination to protect the mates. By extension, such protection should apply to friends, family, grandchildren etc. so consideration is probably not enough.

John Winkett has been at it again, and we have Nillumbik Council looking at the possible extension for social/meeting/well-being space. I’m pretty sure that John doesn’t sleep at all and that he’s related to all members of Council.

Hopefully we’ll be making sawdust again soon.

Kind regards,

**John Brownrigg**

**Happy memories.....**

But I’m sure we will be right into organizing our next exhibition this time next year.

And in the meantime, remember the request for some pictures of the projects you have been making in this past year for a “virtual exhibition”? Please send one or two in for next

month’s newsletter, with a short description. (My email address is on the last page.)



**Latest Men’s Shed Newsletter**

Lots of very interesting reading, just click on the picture below.



## **In praise of mentoring Monday by Chris Hand:**

How can I fix that wonky dining chair and my slightly worn coffee tables? "Join the EDWC" I was told by the helpful person at the Eltham Woodworking Exhibition.

So I did. Probably 2020 was not the best year on record to attempt to learn new skills, but with the excellent tutelage of Martin originally, then the expertise of Charlie, I not only fixed the chair and coffee tables but attempted a totally new project.



Martin had moved north by this time and Charlie had the unenviable task of supporting and encouraging a person totally new to any form of woodworking. His patience and his long term support and major disaster recovery knowledge was amazing. I have lost count of the number of times I told him "I have totally ruined it. There is no recovery possible" and he managed to not only find a way forward but to also teach me new skills.

As the project progressed, Colin became my mentor. Again, support and encouragement were abundant. Other EDWC members also guided my work when I branched out to work independently. On one particularly fraught Thursday Jim and Lorraine provided much needed and appreciated guidance and encouragement.

For all those people who have provided such support, I just wanted to let you know I have finished my folding coffee table. Yay! Thank you all so much. And special thanks to the Mentoring Monday program, without which I would not have had the confidence to attempt any of this.

**Chris Hand**

## **EDWC Market Place - For Sale:**

### **Tools for sale:**

Metabo(DH330) thicknesser barely used \$300. Contact Peter Saunders on 0417321291 or [psau7850@bigpond.net.au](mailto:psau7850@bigpond.net.au)

(New price is over \$900).  
website)

(Picture from a



## My special lockdown project – Barry Lay:

To alleviate boredom and make my wife happy I made the illustrated artistic object.

> Objective: Store the pots on our balcony in a more orderly and artistic manner. [BS]

> Materials used: Some fine examples of Scandinavian Crapwood, complete with features like splits, twists, and borers.

> Finish: Some concrete paint we had left over from the doorsteps. It was the flattest paint known to man, which worked out well. Three coats were brushed on, more where needed.

> Joinery: The ends and centre frame were joined using good old 40 mm Kreg screws,[shock horror] with good old Titebond three for good measure. The top and bottom shelves were screwed in with ginormous galvanised screws, again using Titebond 3.

> Plants: Bottom shelf, two Hellebores on the left and two orchids on the right.

> Top Shelf, [Where Dan goes], From the left, a brand new Hellebores, A pelargonium, a carnation, and a plant that was in my cousin's garden many years ago.

The solo plant on the right is a gardenia I am told.



Barry Lay

Re: Not strictly woodworking, but a few deaf woodies perhaps.

### **FURTHER TO MY BLOG, HACK, OR WHATEVER ON HEARING AIDS:**

I have used hearing aids for around six years, many years of using noisy machines without protection have made a mess of my antennae. We all woke up when it was too late, so, back to the hearing aids. The first set was super basic, and best of all they were free. Did they make a difference? Yes they did. Did I hate wearing them? You betcha! I was heartily sick of having them in my ears by the end of the day. I could adjust the volume quite simply, but the comfort of wearing them was disappointing. The batteries [almost free] lasted more than a week.

Roll around to 2021 and I needed updated hearing aids. Still not top of the line, and the cost to me was still reasonable at about \$1500. Less \$400 paid by Medibank Private. The improvement was immediate, and I now find myself wearing them constantly. They are much smaller, and more comfortable to wear.

There is now a small level of technology, which improves the quality of my hearing greatly. Instead of sound being transmitted into my ears via a hollow tube from the outside of the ear canal receiver, the sound is transmitted along a wire to a microphone in my ear. The microphone in my ear receives the signal, and the volume is still easily controlled. Most of the time I leave the volume the same for hours. The really good bit for me; mobile phones are no longer a pain. The ringtone and conversation are transmitted directly into my ear, I do not have to rely on the phone speaker. To illustrate: I might leave my phone on the kitchen table and move to the office. The ringtone gets to me directly, and I then answer the phone. And the speech is loud and clear. What can be wrong with this: It is not as easy to use another phone to call your number so you can find your own #\*\*!?" phone. You have to remove your hearing aids, and turn them off, and then it is back to situation normal. Follow the ringtone.

I have to say that I can now hear sounds that I have not heard for years. I can understand what the television is saying to me. My wife does not have to repeat herself as often. [Whoop Di Do] The comfort of wearing them has improved a great deal. These are relatively simple hearing aids, and I imagine that people more severely affected would get more benefit relative to their loss.

For six years I could easily have left the damned things on the bedside table, but now they are in place after my shower.

If your hearing aids are not working have a stir up of your audiologist, you may get an outcome like I did.

**Barry Lay**

## **PS:**

Recently I became the proud owner of new hearing aids. I asked the audiologist about the problem we hearing aid wearers all suffer with, and she came up with a great answer. The problem: When you take off your \*\*##&!\*\*% mask the hearing aid usually flies off into space, or at best comes out of your ear. The solution: Slip your finger under the top strand of the mask first, don't start with the lower strand. It works very well, every time. Now all you have to do is train yourself to remember to "start at the top".

Maybe enough deafies around who have the same problem. Apparently a lot are actually losing their hearing aids. Ouch!

**- Barry**

## **Fine Rustic Woodwork**

This piece was inspired by the great variety of fungi that have appeared this year. Hence the title, mushroom table. The raw material was provided by fallen trees on our bush block. The top is yellow box and the base is sugar gum. When Felix, our grandson, saw a photo of it he said "there's not mushroom to put things on it". Kids are always our best critics. I have just read Power Play by Julia Banks. She finishes her chapter called Never Too Old with a quote from George Bernard Shaw. -"We don't stop playing because we grow old. We grow old because we stop playing". Sounds like good advice to follow.

**Alan West**



## The woodworking project that didn't happen

After spending two weeks travelling down the Murray River in pre-lockdown times I thought I'd make a dedicated river boat as opposed to the sailing boat, minus masts, that I used that time. My criteria were that it should be light to handle, easy to take on and off a trailer, able to be rowed, powered by either a petrol or electric outboard and able to carry camping gear, food and water for 14 days. There are some long stretches between towns on the Murray River and I wanted to be self-sufficient.

The search led to a river punt from Croatia, historic rowing punts from the 1700s from North America, a modern motor punt from Britain and a 1940s sailing punt from the USA. What do they all have in common? They are all flat-bottoms with blunt ends. They all looked like good candidates for travelling down rivers, so I made models of them to find out more about how much weight they could carry and how stable they would be.



Because the models were all made at a scale of 1:10, one gram in the models is equivalent to one kilogram in the full-size boats. The testing showed that the smaller boats could not carry heavy loads, the long narrow boats were not very stable and the big wide boats needed large motors to drive them. We used stacks of coins as the test weights to look at stability. As you can see in the next photo, some designs capsized during the stability test. None of the boats had all of the attributes I was looking for.

Unfortunately, you don't know what a boat is really like until you've built it. It's much cheaper to learn these things from models made from balsa and off-cuts that cost a few dollars than to find out after you've built the real thing. The principle applies to any large or complex project.



**Jim Stockton**

# Ode to the Thicknesser

I'm sitting in my garage  
A lump with my lumps of wood  
Some mahogany, oak and ash  
I'd make something, if I could

The lumps are too big  
And I'm missing you my magic tool  
You turn my lumps into wood  
In my life, you're my precious jewel

My oh my, I miss you I do  
My life has become all the more lesser  
Since I last got to work with you  
You joy of my life, my dear thick-nesser

I will come back and see you  
And feed you some lumps of wood  
As soon as the lockdown's over  
To be together again, is going to be so good

**David Brooks**



**Remember this?**

## More Lockdown Projects:



Last month we asked for members to send in some pictures of any projects that they would have placed in our annual exhibition in November so that we would have a rolling virtual exhibition in the next few newsletters. We got none? 😞

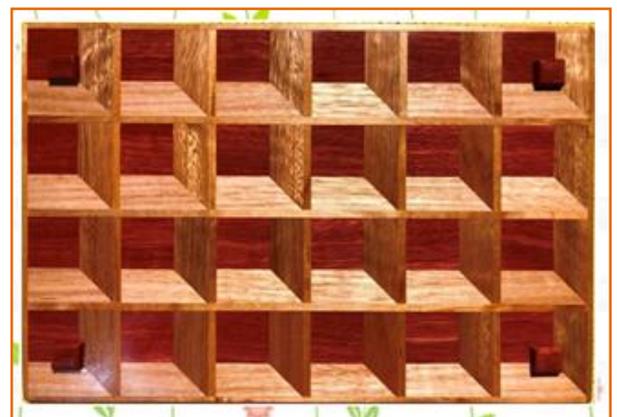
**BUT:** Free standing Barn Owl pyrography in pine by Maïke Pritchard. This rather cute little fellow is another of Maïke's fantastic creations.

It looks to be a 3 dimensional combination of wood carving and pyrography. (Picture copied from the clubs face book group page.)

**AND:** This is the bottom view of my latest "3D"

cutting board, taken to show for the first time glued on wooden feet in the corners. Only then did I notice when looking at the photo that the feet look like little wooden blocks "inside" the corner "boxes".

And below is a rather different but still very flat cutting board design.



**Frank Camera**

## Thursday Arvo Turning- for the month of September – such as it was. Steve Hood

All's quiet on the Eltham Turning front, don't know how poor old Frank's going to fill this newsletter up with absolutely no activity in the club rooms, I'm not even going to give you a song due to the poor reception by the Editor last month, maybe a poem instead:-

*The boy stood on the burning deck*

*His pocket full of crackers*

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.

The club had a request for a turner to turn up some stoppers for a gent from Doreen, I think it may have been, so, as no real turners wanted this prize opportunity to deal with the public, I managed to not duck quick enough and scored the job, whoopee.



The stoppers are roughly 140mm large diameter x 35mm small dia & 215 long. He purchased the timber as I wasn't about to run around trying to find it and he's turned up with these 4 lengths of 200 x 200 Cypress Pine, I'm going to have to dock them into manageable lengths with a chainsaw as they're too heavy to

lift into my drop saw and I'm not sure that would cut it anyway, I'll try and cut it down to 8 sides in my bandsaw, not real confident that's going to handle it either. So I see copious amounts of fun and games in my future, I may need to come up with some new obscenities, I don't think the old ones are going to have sufficient motivating power. Oh, how many? I hear you ask, I'll just keep going till I run out of wood AND I'm hanging on to the off cuts, at least SWMBO will get some kindling if nothing else.



Also working on a couple of magic wand resin filled handles for a friends kids who've just discovered Harry Potter, they'll have hollow handles for filling with magical stuff, so if anyone sees a Phoenix or a Griffon around or comes across a Unicorn would you let me know?

The bottom 2 are Sierra pen blanks just done as a test.

Maybe someone who's made something at home can knock together some photo's and text for next month's newsletter, I'm sure Frank can tidy up any grammatical errors like he does for me and I'd certainly like to see something someone else has made and maybe a bit of a "how I did this" explanation, instead of re-reading my own drivel.

## Scrollsaw Saturdays for September – Steve Hood

- I know it's the October newsletter but scrolling is the first Saturday and the newsletters the 9<sup>th</sup> and I can't remember what I did yesterday never mind a month ago, I can't even remember to take notes!

Yes, well, don't know what anyone else has been doing, but the highlight of my scroll sawing month has been moving the scroll saw from the garage to the new stable while removing a couple more layers of paint off it, might have to send it back to CarbaTec for a respray, one thing with my gear it may not get used a lot but it sure looks well used. I have done a couple of things actually, although I don't think our Mr Mitchener would call it 'real scrolling' c'est la vie (how's that for cosmopolitan eh! Class all the way around this maison). I've only been using it to prepare pen blanks for turning, not that I really like making pens, I just like the variations you can get.



Top 2 are, hopefully, going to be Celtic crosses using aluminium drink can strips. I did make 4 others but used 2.5 mm aluminium strips I had from somewhere in the dim, dark, distant past but by the time I turned them down there was no wood left, just glued together bits of aluminium and I thought that looked a dopier than my usual efforts, so I binned them, strangely, there are levels below which even I will not sink! The bottom 2 are glue ups consisting of 2 strips of red

gum and 2 of Tassie Oak, just waiting to get re-cut & glued.



2 slimline pens, the top one has been treated like the 2 above then cut once more across the width and glued back together with aluminium can between the joints. The bottom red gum pen has been cut into wavy quarter had more ally strips glued between, I think it looks OK but just OK, I think I can improve on that.

Like I say not strictly scroll sawing but couldn't have done it without the scroll saw as I'm not doing all THAT cutting with a fret saw!

Anyway, what IS the difference between a fret saw and a coping saw? I thought it was an emotional thing; you use a fret saw when you're fretting about what the kids are up to or what the hell happened to the bank balance and a coping saw when you're managing to cope with life in general, but that's just weird. You guys are getting far too big a look at what goes on inside my tiny mind.

**NOW on an entirely different note:** The St Andrews Men's Shed has purchased a band saw mill, part of the grant application was that it be used as a Non-Profit way to assist the local community groups, other men's sheds, woodworking groups, etc. It is almost set up, just requiring registering and filling with oil and so on and it will be available for use. There will only be a limited number of people at SAMS to operate the mill to try and reduce inadvertent damage and less than safe operation, so if you have logs that may be suitable for milling contact me, Steve Hood, and I'll get the ball rolling. Sorry if that's a bit vague, but as it's not fully operational we don't have a system in place for handling enquiries yet.

A word of explanation, Non-Profit doesn't mean free to use, there's going to be ongoing maintenance costs, spare parts costs and replacement costs, so some sort of quid pro quo arrangement needs to be struck probably on a case by case basis. What nature that will be no one knows yet, possibly a percentage of the milled timber, possibly monetary, possibly use of someone's expertise in a training role for instance, point is we don't know yet so don't burn those exotic logs just yet.

SAMS and EDWC have had a vague cross pollination over the years with a couple of people being members of both organisations, so this stands to provide advantages to both clubs.

ANYWAY, SAMS also has recently installed a BlueCarve CNC Router and Laser burner. At the moment there's only one of the members who's relatively up to speed with its care and feeding, but if there's sufficient interest a demonstration of the cutting and/or burning could be arranged, post lockdown once we are all vaccinated. Same deal if you're interested, give me a call and I'll get a list happening and arrange a time – probably a Wednesday or Saturday morning, but we can talk about that.

**Steve Hood**

## **Update on Chris Kelly's Boat Building**

Due to this latest lockdown I haven't been able to get to my boat due to the distance and it being non essential work. I have space rented at Docklands where I am building but every lockdown stops the work.

The interior of the boat is 80% finished and it is currently upside down waiting for painting.



Interior view on the left and below the boat upside down with 3 coats of 2 pack epoxy primer completed.



Apart from marine plywood the other timbers used are Oregon for the in-halers, white mahogany for the tie rails and the knees (in the corners) are made from silky oak .

Looking forward to being able to get back to work soon.

**Chris Kelly**

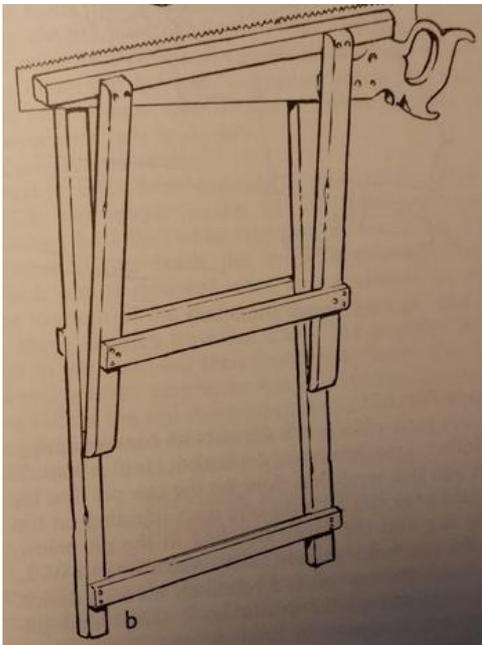
## Holding steady during a lockdown

Lockdown means that we can't use the big power saws at the clubrooms, so hand tools become our weapons of choice. But there's a catch, the more we use our saws the sooner they need sharpening. In normal times you could send your saws to a commercial sharpener, but you can't do that during a lockdown.

There are a lot of good books on sharpening saws, but most of them don't talk about how to hold the saw while you sharpen it, or they assume that you bought a special metal saw holder.

Yes, we can hear the muttering as you think about spending money but we are woodworkers and can make our saw holders out of wood.

A simple wooden frame of uprights, hinged lever arms and jaws works well, as shown in R A Salaman's excellent book titled *Dictionary of woodworking tools* (copyright 1975, reprinted 1990, George Allan & Unwin, page 440).



The picture below shows the holder I made from this design. The uprights are closer together so it can be dropped into a vice mounted on the side of the workbench. It is made from salvaged hardwood that supported roof tiles in a previous life. While this works well for large saws, it doesn't grip small saws well.

The points of small saws can be as close as 2mm apart and any vibration affects the consistency of your sharpening. An article by Harry Bryan in *Woodenboat* magazine (2020, number 275, page 85) gave me the clues for a small sharpening



vice which is solid and dampens any tendency for the saw to vibrate. Let me know if you are interested in seeing the full article.



The photo on the left shows a dovetail saw mounted in the jaws, with the rip saw from the previous photo in the background to show the scale. The wood in this vice is in its third life. It was originally shelving in a chemist shop, it was



salvaged to make furniture, and now the offcuts have become a saw vice.

Keeping saws sharp is easy with good saw vices, and sharp saws are a pleasure to use. Best of all, think of the money you will save doing your own sharpening.

Jim Stockton

## EDWC CLUB Workshop / Meeting Calendar:

Note - There are now scheduled openings on 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> 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
<b>SUNDAY</b>				
9:30 - 3:30				<b>PYROGRAPHY</b> Steve Mitchener
<b>MONDAY</b>				
9:30 - 11:30	<b>MENTORING</b> Charles Camera	<b>MENTORING</b> Charles Camera	<b>MENTORING</b> Charles Camera	<b>MENTORING</b> Charles Camera
<b>TUESDAY</b>				
9:30 - 1:30	<b>OPEN WORKSHOP</b> Mark Thompson	<b>OPEN WORKSHOP</b> Mark Thompson	<b>OPEN WORKSHOP</b> Mark Thompson	<b>OPEN WORKSHOP</b> Mark Thompson
5:30 - 8:00 PM	<b>TURNING</b> Brian Blethyn		<b>TURNING</b> Brian Blethyn	
6:30 - 8:00 PM	<b>OPEN WORKSHOP</b> Peter Davey Adrian Desfontaines		<b>OPEN WORKSHOP</b> Peter Davey Adrian Desfontaines	
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>				
9:00 - 12:00	<b>WES' WORKSHOP</b> Wes Weight	<b>WES' WORKSHOP</b> Wes Weight	<b>WES' WORKSHOP</b> Wes Weight	<b>WES' WORKSHOP</b> Wes Weight
1:00 - 3:00				<b>EXHIBITION COMM.</b> Adrian Desfontaines
6:30 - 9:00			<b>COMMITTEE</b>	
<b>THURSDAY</b>				
9:00 - 1:00	<b>OPEN WORKSHOP</b> Mark Thompson	<b>OPEN WORKSHOP</b> Mark Thompson	<b>OPEN WORKSHOP</b> Mark Thompson	<b>OPEN WORKSHOP</b> Mark Thompson
1:00 - 4:00 PM	<b>TURNING</b> Tony Orbe	<b>TURNING</b> Tony Orbe	<b>TURNING</b> Tony Orbe	<b>TURNING</b> Tony Orbe
<b>FRIDAY</b>				
9:00 - 12:00		<b>TURNING</b> David Cowan		<b>TURNING</b> David Cowan
9:00 - 5:00	<b>CARVING</b> Alwyn Wainwright		<b>CARVING</b> Alwyn Wainwright	
<b>SATURDAY</b>				
9:30 - 1:00	<b>SCROLL SAW</b> Steve Mitchener	<b>OPEN WORKSHOP</b> Mark Thompson	<b>BOX MAKING</b> John Brownrigg	<b>OPEN WORKSHOP</b> Mark Thompson
9:30 - 1:00		<b>BEGINNERS TURNING</b> Steve Hood		<b>BEGINNERS TURNING</b> Steve Hood
1:00 - 4:00 PM				

## [Newsletter Contributions](#)

Thank you to: John Brownrigg, Steve Hood, Jim Stockton, Barry Lay, Christine Hand, Alan West and David Brooks.

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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