

# ELTHAM AND DISTRICT WOODWORKERS CLUB

## The Eltham Woodworker CLUB NEWSLETTER



Reg. Number A0025947P

SEPTEMBER 2021

### EDWC Office Bearers

President	Vice President	Secretary	Treasurer
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### Board Members

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Colin Groves	Adrian Desfontaines	

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



Sadly, due to Covid Restrictions and in consideration of the possible effect on the community The Rotary Club of Eltham have postponed the Festival until November 2022

Just one of the unfortunate results of the current pandemic is the cancelation of events such as the Eltham Town Festival and consequently our annual exhibition, for the second year running, is missing out on seeing some of the great work produced by many of our members. And a very good example of this would be this piece of Maïke Pritchard's amazing pyrographic art/woodwork.



The piece, "Pier Visitors", is 25cm x 76cm and is so detailed and most beautifully done that it looks virtually 3-dimensional.

I hope we all get to see it one day soon.

## President's Report - September 2021

Hello All,

I hope you are all safe and well, and managing to endure the extended lock down. I guess most of you have had the double dose of "insurance" as have Annie and I. I'm actually getting some work done in the shed so the time is not wasted; it's just inconvenient and anti-social. It's still better than the probable alternatives though.

### Whittlesea Show:

Sadly the Whittlesea Show has been postponed for this year and has gone the way of most other events we would normally engage in. The decision is recent and under the circumstances, understandable.

### September Meeting:

Another Covid casualty, the lockdown ensures that we will not be face to face again this month, and may not be before the end of October.

### Possible Extension:

As per recent discussions about having a larger area in which to socialise with our colleagues, the Future Group under John Winkett have been exploring the possibility of obtaining funding and adding more space off the kitchen area of the Club so that when we are allowed to congregate, we'll have somewhere suitable to be able to sit and talk. One of our members Leo Tabacco Meister, an architect, has drawn a proposal for us to explore with Council. A copy is attached for your perusal and for discussion. The proposal is for a 4 or 5 metre square room to be built out toward the car park. Such a room would be an improvement on the standing room only shuffle we experience at peak times.

What do you think? The Committee would be happy to hear your suggestions, although I think we can rule a few things out already. No Jacuzzi, no undercover car parking, no indoor bowling lanes.... you get the picture I'm sure. Seriously, if you have ideas, let's hear them. This is a club, not just a workshop. We would be able to have a yarn, share ideas, follow the footy etc. Your opinions matter and you can share them with anyone on the committee.



Here's the concept drawing, with huge thanks to Leo Meister for his work. The Future Group will explore preliminary drawings to check for funding, so will advise when we know more.

In the meantime, give us a shout with your thoughts.

**EDWC EXTENSION PROPOSAL**

*COLLAGE VISUALISATION by L. Meister*

**25.08.2021**

*for nillumbik council*

## The View from Home.

As we are not yet able to meet together, I think we could share pictures of current and recent pieces/projects we've attacked during lockdown, as a way to stay engaged and to not have us all "tucked away" with the Covid Blues. It's also a good way to share techniques, safety measures and ideas. I'm sure Frank Camera will happily collate ideas for the newsletter. Who knows? It could become bigger than the Herald-Sun.

Be safe, talk soon,

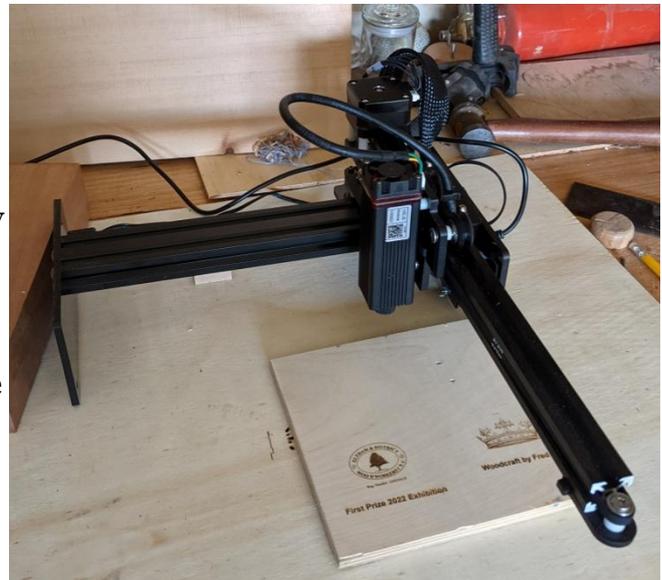
**John Brownrigg**

## From the Secretary – Charles Camera

### Around the workshop September 2021

**And yet again the workshop lies dim and empty, so there is not much to report on a nonexistent “work place” – or more precisely a “noworkingshop”. Still as someone keeps telling me - “we are not suffering a famine, siege or enemy bombardment and most of us are well even if a bit bored.**

On a more cheerful note – I have taken delivery of the club’s laser engraver and am rapidly learning how to make it work. The biggest problem that I have encountered is **guessing** how to run the software without a manual. Many of the actions become obvious only after discovering the changing patterns with which it has been sort of programmed. My first impressions are that the hardware it is well made and has very good potential. Whilst the software “package” is a bit amateurish it is eventually easy enough to use and will suit our needs. How is it possible that a machine this good, comprising of a precision gantry, stepper motors controlled by a microprocessor with motor driver electronics and a very high tech solid state laser module, can be manufactured and delivered to an address 7,532 km distant, all for just AUD \$260????



So far I have been able to work out how to set it up to burn the club’s logo along with added text onto a piece of ply. This is basically all that the committee required as the intention is to brand our exhibition prizes with our logo and allow all members to also brand their craft pieces. After some trials it is evident

that whilst it has a 20 watt module, even at the lowest power it is still able to burn clearly and engrave even the tiniest text very clearly. Along the way I found that high power and fast speed does not work as well as low power and slow speed.



The engraving in the pictures took only about 5 minutes from loading the image to completion which is fast enough. I am still to be convinced that it will cut thin wood (max 4 to 5 mm) which it can do at high power and multiple passes, effectively enough to be a useful feature.

Safety is a primary concern and contrary to my fears – **(Laser beams can be very dangerous)** these types of units have some inherent safety characteristics and a built in safety measures. The laser which emerges with a wide cross section is focused down to an intense pin point at the work surface. If reflected away from the work, the beam rapidly goes out of focus – but still to be taken seriously. If the unit topples, which can be a danger as a direct path from an even out of focus beam can cause severe eye injury, an onboard tilt sensor instantaneously switches the power off. How we set it up, who can use it (after training) and what can be done with it will be worked out by the committee with members input to ensure it is available for everyone to benefit. **For operation it needs a computer and if anyone has an old laptop that they can donate to the club, nothing fancy but running at least windows 7, it would be most appreciated.**

Just one more topic – sick of it as you might be – Easy-Duct did not reply to our letter of demand requesting that they refund unwarranted charges and compensation for removal of unused components. We have therefore now lodged a case with VCAT requesting a court determination of the matter. This will take some time to reach a hearing but we are very confident of success.

## VMSA Newsletter

The Victorian Men's Shed Association now has it's own newsletter. You may check out the first one by clicking on the following logo link:



**Charles Camera**

## Virtual Exhibition

President John has suggested a call out to all members who would have exhibited their wonderful work at our annual exhibition to send them in for a virtual “exhibition” in the next few newsletters. As mentioned in the opening piece on the front page there must be a lot of it out there. I have pinched a couple from the club's FaceBook page as an example. Some great looking pens by Martin Ganter and a tray by Mark Thompson. Please send clear pictures like these of your work for all to see over the next few months.



## Why I like lockdowns – Jim Stockton

Lockdowns provide a marvelous opportunity to do all sorts of things that you've thought about, maybe even started, but never finished.



I've thought about modifying the rudder on a folding kayak for 20 years, and now it's done

After an interruption of about two years, I finally finished some modifications to a rowing skiff, including a passenger seat with an adjustable backrest. With the paint work touched up, the skiff looks shiny and new again.

After procrastinating for six months, in lockdown 5 I stripped all the fittings off a trailer so it was ready to go the galvaniser. The day the lockdown ended the trailer went to the galvaniser's yard, ready to be dipped in zinc. It's ready to pick up now. Of course, I can't pick it up just now and I'm hoping things will ease so I can. Then I can work on it during lockdown 7.

At the next AGM I propose to move a motion that the EDWC mandate a one month lockdown each year because of the social, psychological and woodworking benefits of lockdowns for procrastinators. The only change from lockdown 6 would be one week's notice so we can stock up on all the essentials; wood, glue, paint, hinges, screws, fittings, plans, etc.

Have a happy lockdown. **Jim**



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

Dear Oh Dear! Not much happening on Thursday afternoons at the old club on the lathes – new or old, so nothing to report – I'll just sing you a song instead, sing along if you know the words,

[It's just a jump to the left](#)  
[And then a step to the right](#)  
[With your hands on your hips](#)  
[You bring your knees in tight](#)  
[But it's the pelvic thrust](#)  
[That really drives you insane](#)



## BUT.....

We're actually waiting to get a demo done, and have been waiting for several months now but you know covid, life etc., of a pewter inlay on a medium sized Jarrah bowl rim, bowls in the shed and it's pouring outside – so no photo. BUT, I do have a photo of a nice little bowl made from Laburnum with a pewter inlay. It's only about 100mm diameter and about 40~50 high but I think it's turned out well



Oh and Stewart, he's getting on a bit now, he's a lidded box, carved slightly (with a Dremel, apologies to the carving group) so the head should pop off, or it would if I hadn't painted the joint which has welded itself closed now, and the arms rotate thanks to some cunning pins attached thru the inside.

**Steve Hood**

## Scroll saw Saturdays

Cancelled once again due to the ongoing pestilence, are you up for another song? No?

OK here's a photo, I'm not sure if you've already seen it, of a scroll saw sign that I started before covid mark 1 and only managed to complete 2 or 3 months ago. It's for Di's chook shed, the letters are scroll sawn and painted with that white crackle paint from the club rooms, that didn't crackle or if it did it fell off, I don't think the chooks are going to mind though. The backing board is just fence palings loose in a trench in some off cut redgum fence posts. That's about the height of my cabinet making skills.



**Steve Hood**

## [Article in the latest Australian Wood Review Magazine](#)

A great two page spread in the September issue of the Australian Wood Review magazine on our very own member Hank Tyler and his carving story.

You can also check out Hank's own website for his story and many more examples of his work:

Just click on this link:



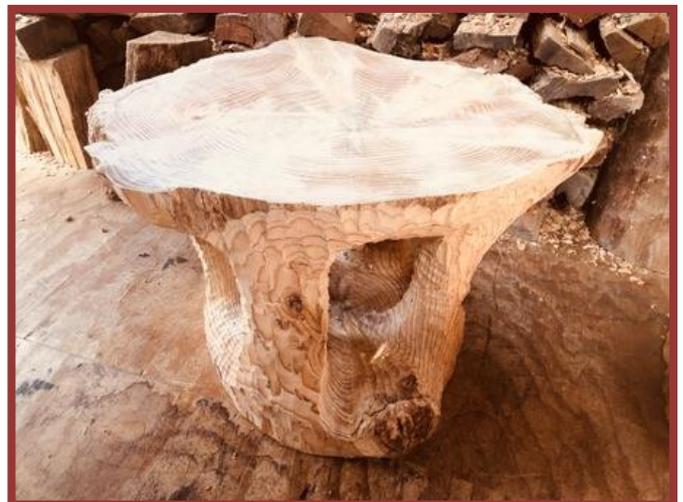
[Australian Workshop - Hank Tyler Sculptor](#)



## [Some more of Hank's Work](#)

During August I focused on completing two tables carved from a Cedar of Lebanon log.

The tables are 45 cm high, and the tops measure 50 cm x 65 cm and 50 cm x 73 cm. The table tops and bases are about 10 cm thick. The table tops were cut exactly through a node of branches giving a radiating pattern of the branches to the top's surface. The table tops will be finished with Tung Oil. The legs and base will be left rough showing chisel cuts – giving the tables a rustic appearance.. The bases and table tops are about xx cm thick. The tables are



heavy. The freshly cut cedar wood has a lovely cedar aroma. I hope to have them completed by the end of September.

Since my work routine is many sculptures at the same time, my workbench is covered with several Abstracts in Osage Orange, Blackwood and Red Gum, as well as spoons and spatulas in Black Cherry and Black Walnut.

**Hank Tyler**

## The census of 2021 (of hand tools) - Jim Stockton

In an idle moment during lockdown 6 I looked over my hand tools and realised how many of them had come to me second hand. So I conducted a census of the more common varieties (see table). Overall, 68% of these tools were second hand and only 15% were bought new. The remainder were either inherited or homemade. Making your own simple tools is very satisfying and a great way to save money. For example, I use awls extensively when laying out boat sails. You can never have too many of them when laying out slippery synthetic sail cloth, and have made 10 of them from worn out screwdrivers. I've also made clamps, chisels, large divers, bevel gauges, marking gauges and handles for chisels and saws.

The largest categories of second hand tools in my collection are spanners, chisels and pliers, where many different sizes are essential. One hundred percent of adjustable spanners, 92% of pliers and 89% of planes are second hand.



Now you may be wondering where all these second hand tools have come from. The main sources have been garage sales and the regular sales of the Hand Tool Preservation Association of Victoria in pre-Covid non-lockdown times. Imagine 20 sellers each with tables laden with hundreds of tools, and you have an idea of the scale of the association's events. This means that you can

compare similar tools and their prices from a range of sellers on the spot. It's also fun to be a seller too and we've sold off several workshops for friends.

Some of my tools are older than I am, such as many of these chisels. I love the chisels where the wooden handle fits inside a socket on the steel part. Many were bought without handles, but a few minutes on a lathe soon fixed that.

It takes time to accumulate tools in this way, but that just spreads out the enjoyment. Even now, when I have all the tools I want, I still go to the Hand Tool Preservation Association sales just to look at the range of things on offer (and occasionally buy something that catches my eye). Yes, that's impulse shopping but you will be surprised how often a tool is useful once you have it to hand.

At a rough guess, the second hand price is usually in the range of 20% to 50% of the new price, so I would estimate that over the 30 years since I set up a workshop buying second hand tools has saved me many thousands of dollars. It has also meant that I have been able to do many simple repairs around the house because I have the appropriate tool. For example, if a tradesperson's callout fee is \$100 and you can do that little repair yourself, you have saved the \$100 and you can buy more tools, so it's a win-win circular argument for buying more tools.

Category	New	Second hand	Inherited	Home made	Total	% second hand
Chisels	2	11	4	1	18	61%
Awls	0	2	0	10	12	17%
Saws	4	5	0	0	9	56%
Pliers	1	11	0	0	12	92%
Hand drills	1	3	0	0	4	75%
Hammers	1	5	0	0	6	83%
Adjustable spanners	0	5	0	0	5	100%
Spanners	5	17	0	0	22	77%
Planes	1	8	0	0	9	89%
<b>Total</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>68%</b>
Percent of total	15%	68%	4%	12%	100%	

Jim Stockton

### EDWC Market Place - For Sale:

The club has been invited to conduct a sale of a large quantity of timber and tools including several small/medium band saws and a quantity of hand tools. The timber (truck loads) includes several logs of slabbed silky oak and a large amount of assorted boards suitable for small projects.

The sale will be scheduled for September and will be on site locally within the district. Prices will be very favourable and restricted to EDWC members only.



**Subject to lockdown restrictions this large sale of tools and timber as mentioned last month is still planned to go ahead. A notice will be sent out by email once the date is set.**

## Tools for sale

I am selling off a friend's workshop and there are some tools that may interest club members.

The list includes:



- Saws
- Pry bar
- Rasps
- Pliers
- Wire cutters
- Sharpening stones
- Micrometers
- Tire pressure gauge
- Drills
- Stud finder
- Run out gauge (for lathe)
- Caulking gun

- Solder remover
- Beam balance
- Nibbler

**Please phone Jim on 0408 279 179.**

## Market Place



Last month's newsletter featured **Ceres Fair Wood**. Since then, they have sent out their current list of available timber which looks very inviting and the prices appear quite good – especially as timber prices have recently soared due to a global shortage.

If you click on the picture on the left or the link below you will be able to download their current list with availability and prices.

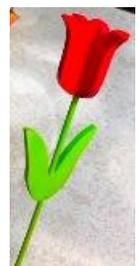
[https://cdn.shopify.com/s/files/1/0574/7674/3337/files/CERES\\_Fair\\_Wood\\_Full\\_Product\\_List\\_as\\_of\\_26th\\_August\\_2021.pdf?v=1629957377](https://cdn.shopify.com/s/files/1/0574/7674/3337/files/CERES_Fair_Wood_Full_Product_List_as_of_26th_August_2021.pdf?v=1629957377)

## Some more colourful lock down work:

These lovely wooden tulips were a 'lockdown project' made by club member Ian (and beautifully painted by his wife Jenny).



And I liked them enough to try one as well for Ros, very nice so there are six more on the way.



## 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: Charles Camera, John Brownrigg, Steve Hood, Jim Stockton, and Hank Tyler.

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

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

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