



Crosscut

Journal of the Wits Woodworking Association

◀ New WWA logo

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Woodturners - Monday, the 7th September 2026 from 18h00 at **Made in Workshop**. Anesh will demonstrate the use of a router lathe, which is useful for adding flutes or spirals to a work piece.

Main Meeting – Wednesday, the 9th September 2026 from 18h00 at **Made in Workshop**. Dylan from Plywood Creations will talk on making Wooden Hand Planes.

Don't forget we have the members' free raffle for those attending meetings - prizes normally have a minimum value of R1, 000.00

News

Woodturners - Monday, the 3rd August 2026 from 18h00 at **Made in Workshop**.

Rick Florence demonstrated using a dovetail recess for making a platter on the lathe. He used a 25mm diameter spade bit, to make a recess 3mm deep on the face side. This is sufficient to hold the platter using 25mm jaws, so he could make a tenon on the bottom. Rick then showed how mount and finish the small platter.



Main Meeting – Wednesday, the 12th August 2026 from 18h00 at **Made in Workshop**.

Trevor Pope showed a battery powered chainsaw in use. He showed how to check that the chain is being properly lubricated and how to safely use the saw. This picture from www.einhell.co.za shows how the chain tension can be adjusted without the use of tools.

A more detailed review of this specific model of saw

can be found at the end of this newsletter.



Calendar of Events for 2026

AWSA Annual

Symposium – 2026 – this will be held over the weekend of 2 - 5 October 2026 at the New Hope School, Ashlea Gardens, Pretoria.

Details of the symposium including the program, and registration form can be found here

<https://awsa.org.za/2026-symposium/>



**ROOTED
IN
AFRICA**

AWSA SYMPOSIUM 2026
LEARN • TEACH • CREATE

2-5 OCTOBER 2026

Wood and Craft Expo – Pretoria Woodworking Association – 24 October 2026

WWA Toymakers Charity braai. The date has been set for the **28th November 2026**, starting at 11h00 at the Gereformeerde Kerk - 41 Third Road (41 Derdeweg), Northwold, Randburg. Coordinates S26°04'20" E27°57'30.1"

Watch your inbox for more info. Please don't forget to make your toys for donation at the braai. If you are unable to attend, you can send your toys with another member.



Reminder – New WWA Account number with FNB – **63026931287** – please add this to your beneficiaries list. Please make sure that your payment can be identified by adding your **name**, perhaps cell number and **reason for payment**.

Annotations such as "annual subs" or "WWA shirt" without your name are not helpful – Anesh will not be able to trace your payment. When making payments, please send the Proof of Payment to treasurer@wwa.org.za so that Anesh can follow up any queries about the payment if needed.

Annual subscriptions are due in May each year. They are R600- for regular members, R100- for spouses, family and country members. If you prefer to pay in cash, there will be a R50- surcharge to account for the extra admin.

Access times for **Made in Workshop** for WWA members:

MIW access control for WWA members – all current paid-up members who have attended a meeting have been issued with a bar code sticker to be used to gain access. Please remember to bring your bar code, so you aren't delayed at the entrance.

MIW times for WWA members are as follows

Monday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday 9AM to 12AM. However please take note of the following: WWA members CANNOT just arrive at **MIW** and use machines unless they have booked them with **MIW**. This refers to the bookable machines such as the panel saw, thicknesser/planer, drum sander, spindle moulder as well as CNC machines of any kind. This applies only to the woodworking machines. The other machines require the purchase of a membership at the monthly (30 day) rate – which is a good rate anyhow. Machines such as the bandsaw and the Triton router table need no booking.

Henry also requires that all the major machines may only be used if the WWA member is familiar and fully understands the importance of the correct and safe use of these machines. Speak to Graham regarding training and qualification to use machines.

MIW is a **Maker Space**, which means that members are able access the machines which are included in the list above. Access to the other machines and facilities is subject to additional fees as mentioned above. While **MIW** will provide assistance and training where necessary, members are responsible for providing materials and performing the work themselves. Members need to be skilled and competent to use the facilities to do the work. For example, if you wish to use a CNC machine, you will need to manually program the tool path on the machine or import it from a design tool that generates the tool path for you. There may be a steep learning curve, but that is part of the challenge.

Bookings can be made during office hours of 8h00 to 17h00, weekdays by contacting one of these numbers:
Henry – 083-269 9505; Josh – 083-768 7853; or Trenton – 081-365 6039

Schedule for Regular Events

1. **Show & Tell** meetings are held at Hardware Centre every Friday Morning at 09:30. All WWA members welcome. Contact Eugene on 0824953394 or eugene@antlerfin.co.za

This list is subject to change, so please consult your *Crosscut* each month for any updates.



Eco Timber Traders

Eco Timber Traders recently moved to larger premises in Kya Sands as they outgrew their Honeydew factory. They were established in 2010 in Pinetown. In addition to Jo'burg they have outlets in New Germany and St Francis Bay. I have bought some nice Birch plywood from them. It's expensive, made in Russia, but it has no voids, unlike cheaper grades. Their commercial ply is good value, but the face veneers are very thin, so be careful with sanding. It does have the odd void. They also have live edge slabs and turning blanks that are priced individually. Although they charge for machining, you may find they are negotiable, particularly if you need to break down a sheet of plywood or a plank to fit it into your vehicle.



Eugene Taljaard periodically sends out their pricelists to the Friday group. I prefer to browse through a pricelist when deciding on what wood to use for a project, rather than to ask for quotes. Eco Timber Traders is one of the sponsors of our end of year Toys for Charity braai.

Go to www.ecotimbertraders.co.za for more information.



Häfele is an international company providing hardware and fitting systems and electronic access control systems. Around the world, customers from the furniture industry, dealers, joiners and cabinet makers, as well as architects, planners and builders all rely on Häfele's expertise and performance.

Häfele is a regular donor to the Toys for Charity braai.

ALBERTSKROON WORKSHOP MEMORIES No. 5

By Winston Klein.

REMEMBERING LES GREYLING



Cordless chainsaw – Einhell GE-LC 18/25-1 Li Kit

Trevor Pope

BPM Toolcraft does have some good deals in their weekend specials.

The Einhell cordless chainsaw GE- LC 18/25-1 Li Kit was on special at R2059- It lists at over R3000- elsewhere, so I ordered one. For orders over R2000- delivery is included as well, so I was happy with the deal. I ordered a spare chain too.

The product code 18/25 indicates an 18V battery, 25cm bar. The kit includes a 3.0 Ah battery and a charger as well. I have used the saw for a few hours and these are my impressions.

This is not a saw rated for professional use, and this is spelled out in the manual too. However, for occasional domestic use, it is quite adequate. The included 3.0 Ah battery runs down quickly, as one might expect. 10 to 15 minutes of heavy use is all you will get before the saw cuts out with a low battery. I found that when the saw cuts out, you can probably get another 10 to 20 seconds of use – enough to finish a cut. You can check the state of charge on the battery - when it cuts out, only the left-hand green light will be flashing. For professional use, a Stihl cordless unit will be about five times the cost, but will last indefinitely.

I bought an extra battery from Chavda. All the Einhell batteries are 18V, with varying capacities offered. However, be aware that there are two types – the standard usage and the heavy duty Plus batteries intended for the more power-hungry tools like this small chainsaw. The saw is supplied with a Plus battery as shown on the right. Chavda offers both normal and plus batteries, so I bought a 4.0Ah Plus battery at a good price of R599-. A normal duty battery will probably overheat and cut out prematurely if used here.

I have an old (40 years plus) conventional Stihl petrol saw with a 40cm bar which I use for heavier work. It is an old model, without any modern safety features, but it works OK. It is also extremely noisy. To start, it has to be fuelled with two-stroke mixture and the chain oil reservoir filled up. When cold, it requires a few pulls to start, with some juggling of



 **Chain lubrication**
Automatic
200 ml oil container



 **Complete set**
with battery and charging

 **Chain speed**
up to 4.5 m/second

 **Blade and chain exchange**
tool-free chain tensioning

choke and throttle while it warms up. Once warm, it starts on the first pull. I'm very conscious of how potentially dangerous a chainsaw is and mine is too old to have any anti-kickback safety measures. A full-face shield with hearing protection is essential.

In contrast the Einhell just needs the oil reservoir filling, and the chain tension checking. Once a battery is fitted it is ready for use. In between cuts it is not rumbling away and annoying the neighbours, reminding me to hurry up. The bar is quite short, and in full depth cuts it does vibrate, indicating that the saw is a bit lightweight. It has an anti-kick back bar as well. I have checked it operates but not under power. As shown on the diagram, the chain can be tensioned and changed without needing tools. In contrast my Stihl needs a spanner and screw driver to replace and adjust the tension of the chain.

The saw is light enough to be used with one hand, but this is dangerous. Both hands must be on the saw. A friend recently showed me a nasty cut on his left-hand index finger and he admitted he had been using his electric chainsaw with one hand.

I did encounter one problem with the saw which I managed to resolve. Lubrication of the bar and chain is essential for any chain saw, and I noticed that no oil was reaching the chain on my saw.

If you look at the picture from the manual [5] on the left, you can see the saw with the chain and bar removed. The cover is labelled 8 at the top of the picture. In the centre at the bottom, is the chain drive sprocket. To the right of that is a plate with a stud to fasten the bar, with slots above and below the stud. The arrow shows the oil feed hole – oil should drip out of this hole when the saw is running. None was coming out.



If you buy a chainsaw, any model, not just an Einhell, I recommend you run it without the bar and chain fitted to confirm oil comes out of the port. (Obviously, the oil reservoir must be full.) Inside the body of the saw is a small oil pump that runs when the drive sprocket is turning – all modern saws have a similar arrangement.

Chainsaw bar oil is a special formulation, being quite viscous and sticky, so I suspected that it wasn't getting through the pump. I removed the cover and checked the pipes from the reservoir to the pump and then to the port were clear. The pump was attached by two screws, one in a slot, with a simple spring to keep it in contact with an eccentric cam. I can't be sure, but the screws may have been a little tight, so I slackened them off slightly. After reassembling, the saw, I ran the motor without the bar and chain installed, and oil started coming out of the port.

In use you should be able to see a film of oil on the bar and chain. The oil has a distinctive smell, so you should be able to smell it too. The bar gets full of saw dust and shavings in use, as one may expect, so it is possible that the oil passages may block in the future. This applies to all chainsaws.

The manual does have some advice on usage and safety, but is silent on the important aspects of maintenance, such as how to sharpen the chain. Chainsaws have a hard life and the chain needs frequent sharpening – it is not practical to take it in for sharpening after just a few hours of use. One slip of the saw, dipping the end of the bar into the dirt could mean that the chain needs touching up. For my Stihl there is a rule of thumb – for every three tanks of fuel, the chain should be touched up and tensioned. (There are also other rules about filters and spark plugs, fortunately those don't apply here.) The Einhell manual is silent on this.

I bought a spare chain and a sharpening kit. Be aware that this saw has a smaller chain than the bigger saws, so you will need the sharpening kit with a smaller 4.0mm file. I haven't sharpened this chain yet, but on my Stihl, a touch-up of the chain only takes about 10 minutes, which is easily done in the field. A full reshaping and equalising of the teeth does take longer and is better done on the bench, or perhaps by a dealer, if you are unsure what to do.

I did send a query to Einhell South Africa about the lubrication issue, but I haven't had a response. I'm guessing they don't know. There is a so-called "explosion drawing" on the web site, but it doesn't come with an accompanying parts list. I can't even find the oil pump and tubes in the drawing, so don't expect too much in back-up support. The key wear parts will be the chain, bar and drive sprocket. If you are worried about long-term support, before you buy a chain-saw, check these are available.

The real benefit with cordless chainsaws is convenience. This one is lightweight, always starts and is relatively quiet. Short battery life can be an annoyance, but spare batteries help with that. The battery recharge time is quite long – more than an hour. This will give the motor time to cool down between batteries.

The cardboard box that the saw shipped in isn't much use for storage with the saw assembled, as it is too small. Also, there are more things to keep track of that won't fit in the box. I made a ply wood box to hold everything for storage and to use in the field too. The sides are 12mm ply and the bottom is 6mm. There is a partition of 6mm ply to hold two batteries, spare chain, and a bottle of oil. The sharpening kit and instructions can be seen as well. There are also two wooden wedges, which are useful to stop the blade pinching in certain awkward cuts. They are wood, in case they come into contact with the chain. The box is about 750mm long, 240 x 240mm wide and deep.

