



Tele (club) 8712 7755 Club email bdwwcsec@outlook.com

Postal address:

The Berwick District Woodworkers Inc
PO Box 921, High Street, Berwick, Victoria, 3806

Location:

The Old Cheese Factory, 34 Homestead Road Berwick, 3806
Inc. No A0012122U

Welcome to the newsletter for **August 2023**

DATES TO REMEMBER: Committee Meeting Thursday 7th September - 1.00pm in clubroom.

General Meeting October 5th - 1.00pm in clubroom.

FUNCTIONS: Club Luncheon - Trios, Cranbourne, Thursday 14th September - 12.00 Noon,

Doveton Show - 17th September, 10.00am to 4.00pm.

Craft Market at Old Cheese Factory, 23rd September (to be confirmed)

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - OUR NEW COMMITTEE.

As he has done for many years, club member and a Past President, **Ken Coleman** took the chair to conduct the election of our new Committee. Changes this year are three new members, with the complete line-up pictured below.



Brian Crowe
President



Ron Bolton
Vice President



Peter Ball
Treasurer



Don Buchanan
Secretary



Ian Deans



Ken Whitefield



Michael Berry



John McMahon



Simon King



Peter Shuttleworth

Following the election, **Ken** expressed his gratitude to the Committee members for the excellent job they have done.

Being a full time carer for his wife **Lorna**, **Ken** is unable to attend the club these days but is still an interested club member and we are grateful that he is able to make time to perform this duty for us each year.

We send our best wishes to both Lorna and Ken at this difficult time.

CLUB INFORMATION:

MEETINGS:

COMMITTEE

7th September

GENERAL

5th October

SPEAKERS ETC

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FARMERS' MARKET

9th September - Farmers Market

23rd September - Craft Market TBC

Committee of Management:

Contact Details

Name

Phone

President Brian Crowe, 0438 012 155
 Vice President Ron Bolton 0413 152391
 Secretary Don Buchanan 0431 313 998
 email: bdwwcsec@outlook.com
 Treasurer Peter Ball 0425 725 875

Committee

Ian Deans 0403 419774
 John McMahon 9796 1097
 Ken Whitefield 0402 256 134
 Michael Berry 0466 812717
 Peter Shuttleworth 0402 680605
 Simon King 0477 831 318

Monthly demonstrations - Vacant looking for help
 Functions Coordinator - Ken D. Barnes
 Newsletter Editor - Elsie Hoare
 Public relations - Don Buchanan
 OCF Contact group - Brian Crowe & Don Buchanan
 Toy Coordinator - Ken D. Barnes.
 Machinery maintenance supervisor. - Ross Blackwood
 Health and Safety Coordinator - All committee members.
 Member's welfare coordinator - Ken Whitefield
 Kits for kids coordinator - Ken Whitefield
 Farmers Market Coordinator - Martin Van Diemen & Don Buchanan
 Special interest group coordinators - To suit group
 Librarian - Simon Robbins
 Exhibition and Show - John McMahon
 Gala Day coordinator - Ken D. Barnes, Brian Crowe & Don Buchanan
 Screws - Martin Van Diemen
 Paint - George Young
 Timber coordinator - Martin Van Diemen
 Equipment authorisation approved members. - Brian Crowe, Bill Bradshaw, Ross Blackwood Simon King & Don Buchanan.
 Mens' Shed coordinator - Wayne Lucas.
 Web/WebMaster - Ron Bolton

All material for the Club's monthly publication is to be submitted by e-mail ricels@bigpond.com by hand, or by phone to the editor by the 15th of each month: Letters to the editor must be sent to the committee.

PLEASE NOTE: Those members wishing to use the workshop on Saturdays other than Farmers' Market Saturdays must make private arrangements with a key-holder. For safety reasons, there must always be **three** members present in the workshop whenever it is being used.

Membership Fees:
 Individual Joining Fee - \$40.00
 Single Membership - \$65.00
 Family Membership - \$100.00
 No Attendance Fee.
 Tea & Coffee complimentary.
 Members can pay either direct at club or by EFT bank transfer to WBC Berwick BSB 033 609, Acct # 41 6074. Please remember to put your surname as a reference.

Workshops & Meetings:

Weekly	Hours	Leader/Key Holder.
Monday Morning	9.00 am – 3.00 pm	- yet to be filled. Simon King for Monday Afternoon.
Tuesday Morning	9.00 am – 1.00 pm	- Michael Berry
Wednesday	9.00 am - All day	- Don Buchanan
Wednesday Evening	4.30 pm - 8.00 pm	- Bill Bradshaw
Thursday Morning	9.00 am – 1.00 pm	- Brian Crowe
Friday Morning	9.00 am - 1.00 pm	- Ron Bolton
Saturday Morning	9.00 am - 12.30 pm	- Ron Bolton
Farmers Market	8.00 am - 12.30.	- Craft Market 9.00 am - 2.00pm Martin Van Diemen and Don Buchanan Supervisors.

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Berwick Woodworkers wish to thanks **Gary Maas MP** State Member for Narre Warren South, and his staff for their support in printing this newsletter for us.
8783 6959.

Berwick Woodworkers also acknowledge with gratitude the generosity of **Ephraim Finch** who has supported the club for many years with donations of top quality timber. Without Ephraim's gifts, the work we do for local underprivileged children would be considerably curtailed.



Great news – timber has arrived for our toy program! - by Peter Ball

The shortage of dressed pine boards has become a problem for our toy making teams in recent months, but the City of Casey has come to our rescue, at least for the time being. The council recently awarded the Club a Community Grant of nearly \$5,000 to purchase a supply of A-grade 290mm boards. This generous grant has come just in time to allow us to complete this year's commitments and to make a good start on next year's toys.

Note, it is a strict condition of the grant that this timber may only be used in our toy making program, so please ensure that none is used for any other purpose. And since we don't know when we'll be able to lock in another source, please use this allocation wisely. The longer it lasts, the more toys we can make before we need to replace it.

Bunnings Fountain Gate store has also kindly provided a large sheet of 9mm marine ply for doll house construction. This top-quality material will ensure a high standard of accommodation for many dolls at Christmas time.

Thank you to Casey Council and Bunnings for their generous assistance.



Young Children in Digital Society - by Peter Ball (thanks Ron Bolton for the photos.)

How about this for an astounding statistic – 81% of parents with pre-schoolers say their children use the internet. Furthermore, 94% of these parents report their child was already using the internet by the age of 4.

Given these figures, there is a huge need for pre-school educators and parents to be able to guide young children's use of digital technology. The Club is now contributing to a research project that aims to develop sound practical ways to provide this guidance. The project, led by Prof. Susan Edwards of ACU, is using wooden digital devices (notebook computer, tablet, smart phone, router) in play-based learning activities at a kindergarten. Wood was chosen as the best material because of its natural appearance, safety, durability and design latitude.

As well as traditional methods, the devices made so far have also involved laser engraving and cutting at Casey Tech School and in our own club workshop.



Ron Bolton says' *"We made all the items. Peter made the laptop , phone and tablets.*

The blue box was the first router I made, but the children chose to use it as a charging station, so we made the two new ones."

Library Book Donation. Simon Robbins tells me that we have some books on woodworking, donated by Ted Murray who is a past Club President. Thanks Ted they will be very much appreciated.



President's Message:

As Club President **Brian Crowe** is up to his ears in packing cases, at present, following his recent house-move, he sends his best wishes but no President's Message this month. The President's Report is well covered in the AGM Minutes in this newsletter. We wish Brian and Marilyn happy settling-in and welcome them back to the Berwick area.

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School's In:

The club has purchased two new table saws - beautiful things that will cut your fine woodwork to close precision.

We are asked to treat the machines with respect and to ensure that we understand how to handle them **Ron Bolton** and **Simon King** have been running short familiarisation sessions on the machines.

If you wish to use these saws in the future - you will need to go through one of these sessions.

Please ask for a short run through on how to handle the various components of the saws before you attempt to use them.

Above are **Ron Bolton, Bruce Brentnall, Simon King, Michael Berry** (hidden), **Ken Whitefield** and **Pat Mahoney** at one such session.



Back at work after a brief trip to hospital for leg surgery is **Nigel Dukes**, left. That's a little Bat-Mobile car that Nigel is making.

Getting down to business at right, is **Don Buchanan** as he adapts a work bench to the club's needs.



Berwick District Woodworkers Club Inc. Expo 2023.
Summary of Outcomes, by John McMahon.

Congratulations to all BDWWC members for the most successful annual Exhibition of Members Work yet. Not only was it the best attended Expo so far, but it was pleasing to see that it also involved more of our members in setting up, participating, demonstrating, and helping out than ever before. It was also pleasing to see the increased variety of work being done by members, and the quality of their efforts. While we encourage work covering all skill levels, the intricacy, execution, and quality of finish displayed in the exhibited items was exceptional. Highlights had to have been **George Richie's** steam train, **Brian Crowe's** low loader and tractor, and **Ron Bolton's** helicopter and remote control unit.

We estimate that approximately 700 visitors attended the Expo (500 last year) and 16 expressed interest in becoming members. We sold every one of the 1,000 raffle tickets printed for the first time ever (436) for a total of \$1,640 (\$728), and \$745 was earned from the sale of specialty timbers. 39 (32) members displayed 645 items (463) in the exhibition and on the sales stand. 118 (92) pieces were sold for a total of \$6413 (\$4814), earning the club \$947.70 (\$691.40) in commissions.

Overall, after accounting for all costs associated with the Expo, the weekend resulted in a net surplus of \$1845.74 (\$700.68) for the club.

We were pleased to see a marked increase in community interest in the club through our social media promotions and flyer distribution, and the fantastic support provided by the City of Casey Winter Arts Festival organisers. For the first time, we had visits from our State and Federal local members

of parliament or their representatives, as well as representatives from both Casey and Cardinia Councils. We had visitors from as far afield as Melton, Sunbury, Barwon Heads, Maffra, Wonthaggi, Ballarat, and Mornington, and from several other woodworking clubs and Men's Sheds. So once again, thanks to all club members for your enthusiastic participation, and for making this our most successful Expo ever. The challenge is now on to do better next year, so hopefully everyone has already started work on their exhibition pieces.

Cheers - John.



Winner of 1st prize - Rocking Horse, Malcom T with Don Buchanan



Winner of 2nd Prize - Lovers sculpture - Chris Peel with John McMahon



Barbeque Preparations: As is the club's custom, a barbeque lunch was held prior to the AGM and **Ken Whitefield** takes his role as BBQ Chef seriously. **Ron Bolton** snapped this photo of Ken manning the slicing mandolin to prepare onions to add to the sausages that he cooks with an expert touch.

Show & Tell for August: Len Preece showed us the desk set at right, which is made from white cedar. Len also made the clock below left, from what is now known among club members as *Clyde Road elm*, as it is wood that was salvaged when a large old elm tree was removed from Clyde Road some years back, to make way for road widening.



Chris Drysdale made the dough whisk, below, from merbeau with Livos finish.

Ron Bolton and **Peter Ball** showed the

routers, which are part of the Digital Education for Young Children Project (previously mentioned on page 3) The wood is Tasmanian Oak.



Welcome to New Members:

We are pleased to welcome the following new members this month and wish you all a long and happy time with us.

Molleigh Lewis, Claire Nuttall, Kelvin Russell, Debborah Bryce, Oscar Bryce, Jack Bryce, John Fitzpatrick, Chandra Mohan, Kerrin Lovell, Ivan Gibson, Alan McGavin, Stuart Grierson, Remy Burney and Tamar Somasundaram.:



Best Wishes. Once again we send our best wishes to those of our members who are not well at present.

Condolences Sadly, there are club members who have suffered bereavement recently. To **Bill Munt** for the loss of his life and business partner of 30 odd years, **Margaret Morrison** and to **Wayne and Bernadette Lucas** on the loss of Bernadette's brother **Noel** who has passed away at the early age of 56. We send heartfelt condolences and deepest sympathy to all concerned.

Minutes 2023 Annual General Meeting Wednesday
9th August 2023 at 1.00pm.

Welcome to members.

Apologies.

George Richie, Ross Blackwood, Alexander Drysdale, Keith Towe, Bev Witts, Bruce Brentnall, Simon Robbins, Bill Bradshaw, Leah Bolton.

Minutes of 2022 Annual General Meeting of 3rd August 2022.

Nil.

Correspondence addressed to the AGM.

- Reminder of the Cluster Muster at Drouin Golf Club on Monday 14th August.
- Doveton Show – 17th September. 10.00am to 4.00pm. Application completed and submitted.
- John McMahon – Information on Open Studios event coming up. Dates being 21 and 22 October – 9am to 4pm at the Club.
- Casey Yarn and the Arts Group visiting the club on 9th November. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Community members. Members advised.
- Leigh Colbert – Hare and Forbes. Demo day arranged for Saturday 18th November from 8.30am to 3.00pm. Don has been asked to make sausages as well.
- Bev Witts has offered to run some pyrography sessions for members. Thanks to Bev. Email sent out to members who may be interested.
Proposed - Chris Drysdale. **Seconded** - Len Preece. **Accepted** - Unanimously.

President's Report.

- 2 new table saws have been purchased. They have fine cutting blades. Training sessions will be organised for members wishing to use these table saws. Members to be advised.
- Just a reminder for members who are wanting to use used/recycled timber in the workshop, to please run over the wood with our metal detector. The wood needs to be checked by another member.
- Important dates – Bunnings Father's Day event Thursday 31st August From 4.00pm

to 7.00pm, Open Studios event on Saturday and Sunday 21st and 22nd October from 10.00am to 4.00pm, Yarn and Arts Group club visit on Thursday 9th November.

- Expo – was a real success this year. Thanks to John McMahon and his team. Start thinking about it a lot earlier. Getting members to start making their items earlier. Expo committee to get together in March. Specific roles for Committee members.
- Containers were to be moved but on the 10th August the ground was too soft, so it has been postponed for another day. Racking coming soon and to be cleaned up before being fitted into containers.
- A big thank you to the Committee members who are leaving the Committee. Namely Peter Angwin, Martin Van Diemen and Ross Blackwood. Ken Barnes will stay with his toy coordinator job.
- Ron Bolton and Simon King are the new maintenance men for the workshop.
Proposed – Phil Willems. **Seconded** - Elsie Hoare. **Accepted** - Unanimously

Treasurer's Report - for inclusion in the minutes of the AGM held on 9th Aug 2023.

• **Financial Data**

The Club commenced our membership year on 1st July 2022 with total funds of \$68,651 and we finished the year on 30th June 2023 with total funds of \$74,216. The enthusiastic commitment of members to our fund raising activities enabled us to meet our financial obligations during the year and still increase our savings.

• **Membership**

During the year we increased our membership from 95 on 1st July 2022 to 123 on 30th June 2023. There are always some non-renewals at the end of the membership year from members who move away or who can no longer participate, but the growth trend looks like carrying on into the coming year as we continue to receive enquiries and expressions of interest from community members who become aware of what we do.

- ***Income Highlights***

Membership fees were held at current levels as we have been able to cover membership-related costs such as insurance (approx. \$38 per head), lease costs and administrative expenses such as postal, IT and regulatory fees.

Income from fund raising exceeded \$25,000 over the course of the membership year. Fund raising activities include the monthly Farmers and Craft Markets, the annual Expo, the sale of firewood to the public (revenue of over \$1,000 this year), and sales to members of items such as timber, redundant tools and apparel. Thank you to all the members who contribute their time to ensure the success of our fund raising efforts. Our licence to raise funds, which had expired during the Covid lockdowns, was re-issued by Consumer Affairs Victoria during the year.

- ***Purchasing Highlights***

In addition to the normal recurrent expenses of “keeping the doors open”, we were able to add a wide range of new equipment for use by Club members. In the club house, we have a new fridge and dishwasher. In the workshop, we added the large stroke sander, a small compound mitre saw, a set of large panel clamps, a new Laguna band saw, two new spindle sanders and a 40’ storage container. You’ll also find new kits of equipment for carving, pyrography and hand sharpening of chisels and plane irons, as well as box making items including the new lock-mitre router bit and the box joint accessory for the Leigh dovetail jig.

Through the generosity of new member, David Walker, we also now have an Emblaser2 laser engraver. The necessary fume extraction and finishing accessories have been acquired so this piece of kit can be put into action.

- ***Looking Ahead - Opportunities***

The Club is well positioned to take advantage of opportunities in the coming year. We have been awarded a Community Grant by Casey Council (\$4,650) for the purchase of timber for our toy making program. This has come just in time, as the donor of 290mm pine boards is no longer able to supply us. We will be actively pursuing other grants as needs arise in the future.

We are about to apply to register the Club as a charity. Doing this will help us retain our hard-won DGR status and more formally recognise the significant community service work undertaken by the Club.

During the coming year, we will continue to upgrade the Club’s workshop equipment. Already this year, we have added two new table saws and a high performance metal detector.

- ***Looking Ahead – Challenges***

A key challenge for us in the coming year will be managing the growth in membership. We have increased access to the Club by expanding the hours of opening, but there is more to be done in this area. Many new members are looking to the Club to provide training and guidance, and this will be another area we can put resources into to improve machine up-time as well as the overall level of skill and expertise amongst members.

The new membership database is proving to be very helpful with keeping records, but there are aspects we can improve. This will be a point of focus in the coming year.

Finally, there is an urgent need for us to identify a sustainable replacement source of dressed 290mm pine boards for toy making. The grant of funds generously provided by Casey Council has set us up for success in 2023 and given us a solid foundation for 2024, but we need to identify a secure source of timber and/or funding into the future.

Proposed - Chris Drysdale. **Seconded** - John McMahon **Accepted** - Unanimously.

Notified Motions.

Nil

Election of Office Bearers and Committee.

- All Committee positions were made vacant. Ken Coleman read out the nominations and conducted the elections of office bearers.
- Nominations are:
President – Brian Crowe, Vice President – Ron Bolton, Treasurer – Peter Ball, Secretary – Don Buchanan.

6 Committee members – Ken Whitefield, John McMahon, Michael Berry, Ian Deans, Simon King, & Peter Shuttleworth.

No other nominations were received.

Each nominated member was presented to all the members present in turn and voting took place. All nominated members were voted in and accepted by the all the members present.

Election of Auditor.

- To be advised at a future Committee meeting.

Other AGM related business.

Toys

- 650 toys so far.
- Catering for the Gala Day - Ok but there may be an increase in their charge.
- So far 65 pens have been ordered by our charities. That may increase. Volunteers to make the pens are Ken Barnes, Len Preece, John Mc Mahon, Martin Van Diemen, Chris Drysdale, Michael Henderson. Len Preece to coordinate.

Suggestion Box

- An invitation for all members to consider using the suggestion box to highlight issues that they consider worth mentioning to possibly improve the way the club works.
- From Pat Mahoney – That the club displays signage to direct people with wheelchairs to safe entry points to the club and workshop.

Footy Tipping

- Wayne Lucas has 19 members participating. Prizes are 1st - \$200, 2nd - \$100, 3rd - \$50. At the moment there could be more than 1 third place getter.
- Thank you for your support.

Expo

- Best Expo so far. A good number of reps from all over – Council, State and Federal VIPS including people from far and wide. 16 expressions of interest to be members. All raffle tickets were sold. 39 members participated either displaying exhibits or selling items a total of 645 items. 118 pieces sold at a total of \$6413. Giving the club \$947 in commission.
- John thanks all his committee members for their contribution to a great Expo.

Our Auditor

- A question from George Young. He was asking who our auditor will be. After

discussion and a proposal was put forward by Len Preece. It was recorded that Peter Cunningham is our Club Auditor. Seconded by Martin Van Diemen. And accepted unanimously.

Show and Tell

- Chis Drysdale – A dough whisk made from merbau and Livos oil.
- Len Preece – A desk set made from white Cedar.
- Ron Bolton – 2 internet routers made from Tassie Oak.
- Thanks to those members for exhibiting.

Door Prize.

- Our door prize winner is Ian Deans who wins \$20.00. Congratulations Ian.

New members

Family memberships – Molleigh Lewis (Len Preece), Claire Nuttall and Kelvin Russell, Debborah Bryce, twin sons – Oscar and Jack and Father-in-law John Fitzpatrick.

Individual memberships – Chandra Mohan, Kerrin Lovell, Ivan Gibson, Alan Mc Gavin, Stuart Grierson, Remy Burney, and Tamar Somasundaram. Welcome!

Special Meeting

- Opened at 2.20pm
- Proposed by Peter Ball that we amend the Club's Statement of Purpose to reflect our current intentions as a community based, not-for-profit woodworking club.
- To amend clause (f) to read – “To develop cohesive social connections that provide mentoring and support for members who require assistance from time to time.”
- To add a clause (g) to read – To contribute to our community through the craft of woodworking by, for example, making toys for children in need, assisting local charities and not-for-profit organizations, and helping individuals in the community.

- Seconded by Len Preece.
- This proposal was put to the members and a vote was taken.
- This proposal was accepted unanimously by all members present.
- Our Statement of Purpose will now be amended to reflect these changes.

- Meeting closed at 2.40pm

Next General meeting

- Wednesday 11th October at 1.00pm

Don Buchanan - Secretary.

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Men's Shed Cluster Meeting Hosted by Drouin Men's Shed: **John Damon** and **Errol Pererer** filled in for **Wayne Lucas** who was unable to attend the event. The theme for the day was Men's Health and covered several aspect of the subject, both mental and physical. Members were able to take advantage of health checks which were available at the venue.

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Preparing for Gala Day: With the year getting by at a gallop I'm happy to say that the last of the bed sets for the doll's bed, prams, cradles and double bunks are finished. Many thanks to **Heather Deans** for help sewing 12 of the mattresses.

Once again, thanks to Berwick Curtain Nook, 48 High Street Berwick, for their donation of some of the fabric.

Laser Printer Donation. Donated by club member **David Walker**, the club's laser printer is now operational. Pictured below is **Wayne Lucas** putting the machine through its paces. At right is one example of what the printer is able to do. **Ross Blackwood** tells me he took a photo of his partner **Marg**, turned it into a black and white image, fed the details to the printer via the computer and presto, the result is this portrait, burned into a sheet of plywood. For those with a creative imagination, the possible use of this machine is an exciting prospect.



From Ross Blackwood: *"Hi Elsie. I meant to send these to you while we were away. Attached are some photos of the public toilets in Maryborough QLD. Somebody spent a lot of time with a spray can. Cheers Ross."*



Ross has also sent me some of these amusing signs. Is it any wonder that we of the older generation sometimes become a little confused?



And Something to think about:

If you think your are smarter than the previous generation....50 years ago the owner's manual of a car showed you how to adjust the valves. Today it warns you not to drink the contents of the battery.

The biggest joke on mankind is that computers have begun asking humans to prove they aren't robots.

Just once I want a username and password prompt to say CLOSE ENOUGH.

That's about all for now. Until next time, keep safe and stay well.

