

May 2026 NEWSLETTER



BENDIGO WOODTURNERS INC.
BOX 1259 BENDIGO CENTRAL VICTORIA 3552

Volume 40: Number 05



Bendigo Woodturners Activities Program

General Meeting:	4th Monday Monthly	7.00pm
Executive Meeting:	1st Monday Monthly	6.30pm
Tuesday Group:	Every Tuesday	9.00am to 12.00pm
General Woodworking:	Every Thursday	9.00am to 12.00pm
Toy Group:	1st & 3rd Saturday Monthly	9.00am to 12.00pm
Pyrography Group:	1st & 3rd Tuesday Monthly	7.00pm
Carvers Group:	1st & 3rd Tuesday Monthly	7.00pm
Triton Group:	1st & 3rd Tuesday Monthly	7.00pm
Scroll Saw Group:	2nd & 4th Tuesday Monthly	7.00pm
Wood Turning Group:	2nd & 4th Tuesday Monthly	7.00pm
Group Activities:	Saturday (as required)	9.00am to 12.00pm

Bendigo Woodturners

President:	Steve Brereton	Ph: 0419 389 259
Vice President:	Arthur Curnick	Ph: 0459 422 273
Past President & Welfare Officer	Harald Mai	Ph: 0437 178 552
Secretary:	John Phillips	Ph: 0488 666 006
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Public Officer:	John Phillips	Ph: 0488 666 006
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Safety Officer:	Jeff Willey	Ph: 0407 683 585
Shop Operator:	Arthur Curnick	Ph: 0459 422 273
Assistant:	Norm Eason	
Equipment Officer:	Malcolm Hill	Ph: 0427 496 477
Assistants:	David Alexander, John Phillips, John McDonald	
Woodturning:	Arthur Curnick	Ph: 0459 422 273
Triton Group:	John Phillips	Ph: 0488 666 006
Pyrography Group:	Allan Edwards	Ph: 5432 6659
Scroll Saw Group:	Heather Pascoe	Ph: 0409 663 835
	Helen Craig	Ph: 0423 069 514
	Harald Mai	Ph: 0437 178 552
Carvers Group:	Bruce Guilmartin	Ph: 0428 387 550
Toy Group:	Kevin Trevan	Ph: 0487 851 878

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Show and Tell

This section of the meeting is open to all members to enable them to exhibit any interesting items that they have made, brought, found or otherwise acquired.

Monthly Competition

The competition for May competition is Pyrography. June's competition is Scroll Saw.

President's Report

Hello Woodies

Well, it's that time again, end of the month report and meeting. It has been a busy time around the club and we are also heading into a busy time with Craft Alive and the Sheep and Wool show just around the corner, also a Bunnings BBQ at the end of the month.

First, U-turn was held over at Ararat at the start of May and it was a very successful 3-4 days with all those who ventured over there enjoying themselves. The numbers were just enough to break even so I will put this out to all of our members, if you are interested in your turning, scroll saw work or any other form of wood work, have a chat to Jeff, myself or any of the members who were over there and see if it works for you, it is a great way to see other people and how they work, what they make and generally meet like-minded people from other clubs.

Our Biggest Morning Tea was held on Tuesday 19th and though the numbers were down it was still a very successful morning with over \$500 being made which is the club's donation to the Cancer Council. As we all know research into a cure is very costly and every little bit helps.

The club has been able to secure some furniture grade Huon Pine @ 150 x 50mm with around 25 metres in total and some jarrah 8 x 90 x 90mm x 2.4m posts which are very solid but some will need de-nailing. This timber is to be locked in the container and is for sale at \$50 per metre for the Huon and \$15 per metre for the jarrah or part thereof for both. I know it sounds expensive but this timber, especially the Huon is very hard to get, especially in lengths like this. If you are interested, please see Mal or John or me.

Well, it is time for me to head off now, I won't be around for Craft Alive as I will be in Darwin fishing looking for that elusive 1 metre Barra and hopefully not the 6-metre croc, anyway, stay safe and keep turning.

Steve Brereton
President

Secretary's Report

Greetings to everyone,

No new members to welcome this month.

The last month has been reasonably quiet but we have just had our annual Biggest Morning Tea to raise funds for the outstanding work of Cancer Australia. I believe we raised over \$500 this year which is a little bit down on previous years but still an excellent result. Thank you to everyone who came along and many thanks again for all the donations. Thanks to Jeff and Lynette Willey for organising this event again.

Malcolm Hill and John MacDonald represented the Club at a Victorian Men's Shed Regional Forum held at Chaser's Greyhound Function Rooms at Junortoun last week. Malcolm and John inform me that it was a very productive day and to top it all off John MacDonald won the major door prize of a \$500 Visa Card voucher which he donated to the Club. Thank you John.

We have a Bunnings Sausage Sizzle on Saturday 30th May at Epsom

CraftAlive and the Sheep & Wool Show are both coming up in the next two months so get busy with all your woodworking skills.

A very brief report this month.

Stay safe.

John Phillips
Secretary

Tracks for Care

Another great write up and acknowledgement for Bendigo Woodturners on 8th May 2026



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NEWS

Power move to support neurology services

Brodie Everist

HE'S not a transpotter - or a gunsel, as they're also known - but when he saw Bendigo's tram tracks taken up, Damien Power had an idea.

Now that idea will raise money for one of Bendigo's biggest charities.

Mr Power is the brains behind "Tracks for Care" - a limited-edition set of 300 pieces of the 1903 Pall Mall tram tracks that were replaced in 2025.

The Bendigo-born man and owner of a local transport company took the idea to Bendigo Tramways, and after "a bit of tinkering", he found the pieces polished up well.

"It was a good opportunity to get a bit creative. It presents so much about Bendigo."

Mr Power partnered with a number of local groups and businesses, including the Bendigo Woodturners and Bendigo Metalworks, to create the mounted pieces - each with their own certificate of authenticity.

"Gradually, people just jumped on board with it - it's been really cool," he said.



Damien Power with one of the 300 limited edition pieces of Bendigo's original 1903 tram track. Pictures by Enzo Tomasiello



One of the 300 limited edition tram track pieces

James Reade, chief executive officer of Bendigo Heritage, said: "We're proud to be part of such an important initiative which supports the vital work of Bendigo Health whilst also giving collectors

the opportunity to own a piece of history".

Money raised from the pieces directly supports local neurology services through the Bendigo Health Foundation.

Shuan Spence, director of fundraising for the Bendigo Health Foundation, said the money will "directly improve healthcare access and patient experience for people across our region".

"This is an amazing community-driven project and another example of the generosity of the people and businesses of Bendigo," he said.

The City of Greater Ben-

digo council spent \$5.68 million in 2025 replacing 660 metres of the historic but ageing tram tracks in High Street and Pall Mall between Short Street and Mundy Street.

Monthly Competition – no entries in April

Bruce Guilmartin yet again brought along some interesting artefacts after he'd been rattling around the shed; some old chisels and a carving of a cockatoo in Jelutong. Thank you for your contribution to our monthly meetings.



they say it's hard to keep a good woman down.

Thanks, Andrea, for cleaning out the filters!

Editor's Note

Saturday 25th April, there was a very interesting article in the Bendigo Advertiser (pages 4 & 5) by Ben Loughran regarding Geoff Maxwell and his service in Vietnam. It's a very interesting read beginning with training to be a Wool Classer to training in the Engineer's Corps, to farming to being pulled over by the Military Police to then work for the Council.

Thank you Geoff for your service and my thanks to John Humphries for providing the article.

It is quite large so I'll bring it to Monday's meeting so those who may be interested.

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Events Calendar

May 2026	
1-3rd	U-turn at Ararat
4th	Executive Meeting
19th	Biggest Morning Tea
25th	General Meeting
30th	BBQ - Bunnings
This month's competition is Pyrography	
June 2026	
1st	Executive Meeting
11-13th	Craft Alive
22nd	General Meeting
This month's competition is Scroll Saw	
July 2026	
6th	Executive Meeting
17-19th	Australasian Sheep & Wool Show
22nd	Proposed Winter Get Together – to be confirmed
27th	General Meeting
This month's competition is Carving	
August 2026	
3rd	Executive Meeting
24th	Annual General Meeting
No competition this month	
September 2026	
7th	Executive Meeting
28th	General Meeting
This month's competition is Wood Turning	
October 2026	
2-4th	Dingee – Loddon Valley Arts Trail
5th	Executive Meeting
26th	General Meeting
This month's competition is Pyrography	

Our Supporters

