

# April 2025 NEWSLETTER



BENDIGO WOODTURNERS INC.  
BOX 1259 BENDIGO CENTRAL VICTORIA 3552

Volume 39: Number 04



## *Bendigo Woodturners Activities Program*

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

## **Bendigo Woodturners Directory**

<b>President:</b>	Steve Brereton	Ph: 0419 389 259
<b>Vice President:</b>	Arthur Curnick	Ph: 0459 422 273
<b>Past President: &amp; Welfare Officer</b>	Harald Mai	Ph: 0437 178 552
<b>Secretary:</b>	John Phillips	Ph: 0488 666 006
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Tammy Miatke	Ph: 0408 000 629
<b>Assistant Treasurer:</b>	Malcolm Hill	Ph: 0427 496 477
<b>Editor:</b>	Heather Pascoe	Ph: 0409 663 835
<b>Committee:</b>	Malcolm Hill, Andrea Tozer, Helen Franklin Chris Pascoe, David Alexander, Heather Pascoe	
<b>Librarian:</b>	Dawn Eason	Ph: 5446 3200
<b>Assistant Librarian:</b>	Cheryl Curnick	
<b>Grounds Committee:</b>	Jeff Willey	Ph: 0407 683 585
<b>Public Officer:</b>	John Phillips	Ph: 0488 666 006
<b>Auditor:</b>	Rod Lester	
<b>Safety Officer:</b>	Jeff Willey	Ph: 0407 683 585
<b>Shop Operator:</b>	Arthur Curnick	Ph: 0459 422 273
<b>Assistant:</b>	Norm Eason	
<b>Equipment Officer:</b>	Malcolm Hill	Ph: 0427 496 477
<b>Assistants:</b>	David Alexander, John Phillips, John McDonald	
<b>Woodturning:</b>	Arthur Curnick	Ph: 0459 422 273
<b>Triton Group:</b>	John Phillips	Ph: 0488 666 006
<b>Pyrography Group:</b>	Allan Edwards	Ph: 5432 6659
<b>Scroll Saw Group:</b>	Heather Pascoe	Ph: 0409 663 835
	Helen Craig	Ph: 0423 069 514
	Harald Mai	Ph: 0437 178 552
<b>Carvers Group:</b>	Bruce Guilmartin	Ph: 0428 387 550
<b>Toy Group:</b>	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.

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### **Monthly Competition**

The competition for April is Wood turning, the competition for May is Pyrography.

The open competition is for any other items. One entry only in each section per month and once an item has been entered it cannot be entered again later. Entrants will be invited to discuss their entry detail allowing members to gain from your experiences.

## President's Report

Hello everyone, as I write this report; we have just finished a very busy period of Seymour and Easter and for those of us going to U-turn, that is only a week away.

Well, it was two fantastic shows with excellent sales for those who put items in, I would say to members who have not yet put items up for sale, please do, let the public decide if they are worth it.

I want to say a huge thankyou to all of those members who have helped out at the two shows, without your help we cannot participate in these events.

The raffle sales were excellent and a big shout out to the guys selling the raffle tickets, without you ticket sales would drop dramatically. Just on that point, a friendly reminder for members to get their tickets back to Jeff, the members contributions have not been great, so be warned it could mean a return to the \$50 ticket levy for every member.

At the moment, there are a few changes to the workshop; Mal and David are trying to work out how to make a bit more room, so have some patience.

As I have stated, it has been a busy period, but we still have Craft Alive and Sheep and Wool shows coming up, I would really like to see members who have not been involved putting their hand up to come along put some hours in, learn how our shows operate and participate in some productivity for the club. It is very rewarding to see these events and listen to the feedback from the public. In talking about feedback, one thing that has come out of Seymour and Easter is that our prices are too low, so have a think about that when you are putting a price on your item, also please make the items end in a 5 or 0, i.e.: \$35 or \$40, makes life so much easier for the salespeople.

That's all for now, keep turning.

**Steve Brereton**

President

## Secretary's Report

Hello All,

We have just completed two of our major activities, namely Seymour Alternative Farming Expo and our own Easter Exhibition. Both were very successful and I thank all members who were involved in either or both.

**Seymour** - We had about 15 members at this event either partially or for the whole 3 days. The 1st day (Friday) seemed extremely quiet with sales down substantially to other years, that being said; our Raffle Ticket sellers did well. Fortunately, the Saturday proved much better and the Sunday was just a little down. Overall, we made enough from the Raffle and Toy Sales to cover the cost of our marquee hire and that's all we were hoping for.

**EASTER** - We weren't sure how we would go this year especially just 2 weeks after Seymour. The final figures were excellent with numbers through the door about the same as recent years and members sales also very good. Again, big thanks to our Raffle ticket sellers who brought in over \$1,300.00. It was amazing and lovely to hear so many compliments about our work from new and returning customers, some from Melbourne and other places who come back to us each year.

I have added a few photos and Heather probably has more:

Again, thank you to all who helped at the Bunnings Easter activity night (Steve Brereton, Arthur Curnick, John MacDonald, Geoff Maxwell and Gary King). Also, to those who helped making our club give away items.

We have another Bunnings event as above for their Mother's Day event on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> May.

Our next bigger event is Craft Alive in June followed by the Sheep & Wool Show in mid-July. If these events are as popular as previous years, I suggest everyone get very busy.

Cheers and stay safe,

**John Phillips,**  
**Secretary**

For those who don't get the Bendigo Advertiser, Jeff gets Page 2 headlines in the Monday 21st April edition.

## Carving out a new lifestyle in retirement

David Chapman

WHEN Jeff Willey joined the Bendigo Woodturners, he had no idea how to carve something out of timber.

"I had been in the military for 23 years and was finishing off a business degree but I really wanted to do something with wood," he said.

He applied for a wood-working class at TAFE at the same time his wife saw an ad for the Bendigo Woodturners offering to teach new members.

He was accepted into both and has been churning out woodcraft ever since.

A selection of his products were on sale - along with other items from club members - at the Bendigo Woodturners Easter Exhibition.

Among them was a giant redgum bowl which took him eight hours to carve.

"A lady in Ballarat said she had an old Elm burr that I could have," Mr Willey said.

"It was a bit rotten in the middle so I gave her \$50 for it. I thought I could make that back easily.

"It wasn't until I was flattening the bottom that

I found out it wasn't elm but redgum."

Mr Willey used an Arbotech industrial wood-carver on a grinder to carve the bowl.

"I masked up, put the overalls on and an apron ... it was a really dry bit of timber so there were bits of the wood flying up and in my ears and my grey hair went red."

Mr Willey applied four coats of polyurethane varnish to finish it off and it was for sale for \$380.

"It's all a hobby. I've paid for equipment and trips to



Jeff Willey with his redgum bowl at the Bendigo Woodturners Easter Exhibition on Friday. Picture by David Chapman



Some of the many items on show at the Bendigo Woodturners Easter Exhibition. Picture by David Chapman

Tasmania and New Zealand out of my hobby," he said.

Bendigo Woodturners president Steve Brereton said club members had pulled apart old wine barrels, used railway sleepers, re-purposed Blackwood kitchens and any other timber they could find.

There were rifle bolt-action pens, cutting boards, clocks, candle holders, coat hangers and an endless array of other items on sale.

The club has about 80 members - a third of whom are women - and are always on the lookout for

new recruits.

"We're looking for middle-aged members who want to join the club life," Mr Brereton said, noting that one of their members is around 90 years of age.

And as Mr Willey proves, you don't have to have seen a lathe before to be a member.

"In retirement, this helps you fill in the time and you get to mix with other people," Mr Willey said.

"We often get people putting in requests for us to make something. I made a samurai sword stand for the RSL last Christmas."

### Save the date – Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> May!

### Each year Jeff & Lyn Willey host our Biggest Morning Tea

**Entry is a Gold coin donation**  
**Raffles (please donate something)**  
**Please bring a Plate of food to share**  
**Family and friends welcome**



# Out & About - Seymour



Figure 1 Our set-up



Figure 5 Trusty Raffle Sellers John Fuzzard & John MacDonald



Figure 2 Tracey Phillips & Helen Craig



Figure 3 Steve Brereton



Figure 4 Jeff Wiley, John Phillips & Tammy Miatke

# Bendigo Easter Fair



*Malcolm Hill & Steve Brereton*



*Great Scot!*



*Three Wise Men??*



*Beautiful work by Bob Trigg*



*Major Andrea Tozer Alias Pyro*



# Events Calendar

## April 2025

4-6th Seymour Alternative Farm Expo  
7th Executive Meeting  
18-21st Easter  
25th Anzac Day  
28th General Meeting

**This month's competition is Wood Turning**

## May 2025

2-4<sup>th</sup> U-turn at Ararat  
7<sup>th</sup> Executive Meeting  
**20<sup>th</sup> Biggest Morning Tea**  
26<sup>th</sup> General Meeting

**This month's competition is Pyrography**

## June 2025

2<sup>nd</sup> Executive Meeting  
23<sup>rd</sup> General Meeting  
**This month's competition is Scroll Saw**

## July 2025

7<sup>th</sup> Executive Meeting  
18-20<sup>th</sup> Sheep & Wool Show  
28<sup>th</sup> General Meeting  
**This month's competition is Carving**

## August 2025

4<sup>th</sup> Executive Meeting  
26<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting – no competition

## September 2025

1<sup>st</sup> Executive Meeting  
22<sup>nd</sup> General Meeting  
**This month's competition is Wood Turning.**

### Our Sponsors

