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Postal address:

The Berwick District Woodworkers Club Inc  
PO Box 921, Berwick, Victoria, 3806

Location:

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

Welcome to the Newsletter for March 2026

**DATES TO REMEMBER** Committee Meeting – Wednesday April 8<sup>th</sup> – 1:00pm in clubroom. **General Meeting** - Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> April 2026. 1:00pm in clubroom. As always it will be preceded by a free BBQ lunch at 12 noon. Hope to see you there.

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.



Hello to everyone, this month finds most things going along quite well. Toys are well under way for this year, with all those involved very busy.

In most cases people have been cleaning machines and sandpaper, but if someone gives you a reminder, please don't take offence. It is not their fault you have forgotten, we are just trying to make it better for everyone.

Regards **Ian Deans**



Above right some little prams and one small rocking horse, almost ready to go into storage to await distribution on Gala Day. **Rick Hoare** has been busy attaching the pram handles. At far right is **Ian Deans** collecting two small rocking horses, carefully wrapped for their protection, to transfer to storage.



**Alexander Drysdale** is painting some of the small parts that go to make up a fleet of tugboats, "29 if all goes well," says Alexander, "If not there will be fewer."

The unfinished pieces below will become trains.



# CLUB INFORMATION

## MEETINGS:

### COMMITTEE

Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> April 1:00pm

### GENERAL

Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> April 1:00pm

## MARKETS – Volunteers needed

Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> April - Farmers Market

### Newsletter Contributions

All material for the Club's monthly publication is to be submitted by e-mail to [ricels@bigpond.com](mailto:ricels@bigpond.com), by hand, or by phone to Elsie Hoare the editor by the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month. Letters to the editor must be sent to the committee.

## Committee of Management:

Position	Name	Phone
President	Ian Deans	0403 419 774
Vice President	Ron Bolton	0413 152 391
Secretary	Don Buchanan	0431 313 998 email: <a href="mailto:bdwwsec@outlook.com">bdwwsec@outlook.com</a>
Treasurer	Peter Ball	0425 725 875

Committee	Phone
John McMahan	0437 096 840
Ken Whitefield	0402 256 134
Michael Berry	0466 812 717
Peter Mason	0419 531 524
Simon King	0477 831 318
David Macgregor	0490 897 630
Julie Robinson	0481 088 390
Carol Goddard	0422 395 565

## Contacts

Equipment authorisation approved members – *Ian Deans, Don Buchanan, Simon King and Ron Bolton.*

Health and Safety Coordinator – *Ron Bolton*

Machinery Maintenance Coordinators. - *Ron Bolton & Simon King*

Timber Coordinator – *Ken Whitefield*

Screws – *Ken Whitefield*

Paint – *Ken Whitefield*

Toy Coordinators – *Ian Deans & Julie Robinson*

Functions Coordinator - *Don Buchanan*

Gala Day Coordinator – *Ian Deans*

Annual Expo - *John McMahan & Jayne Worthington*

Farmers Market Coordinators – *Ian Deans & Don Buchanan*

Public Relations - *Don Buchanan*

OCF Contacts – *Ian Deans & Ron Bolton*

Webmaster - *Ron Bolton*

Newsletter Editor - *Elsie Hoare*

Members' Welfare Coordinator - *Ken Whitefield*

Men's Shed Coordinator - *Wayne Lucas*

### Membership Fees:

	Joining	Annual
Individual	\$50.00	\$75.00
Family of 2	\$75.00	\$115.00
Family of 3	\$75.00	\$138.00
Family of more than 3 please enquire.		
No Attendance Fee.		
Tea & Coffee complimentary.		

### Paying your Membership Fees

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.

### Safety First

For safety reasons, there must always be **three** members present whenever the workshop is being used.

## Clubrooms and Workshops Open Hours

Weekly	Hours	Leader
Monday	9:00 am – 1:00 pm	Ron Bolton
Tuesday	9:00 am – 1:00 pm	Michael Berry
Wednesday	9:00 am – 4:00 pm	Don Buchanan
Wednesday Evening	4:00 pm – 7:00 pm	Ian Deans & David Macgregor
Thursday	9:00 am – 1:00 pm	Brian Crowe
Friday	9:00 am – 1:00 pm	Ron Bolton
Saturday	9:00 am – 1:00 pm	Ron Bolton

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



## EXPO 2026

This year's club exhibition of members' work will be held over the weekend of 10-12 July 2026, during the City of Casey Winter Arts Festival, and work has already started on preparing a very special Expo to mark our club's 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary. This year we will also be hosting the biennial Australian Scroll Saw Network's exhibition at the same time, in the Hayshed Studio (our old clubrooms) at The Old Cheese Factory. We anticipate that up to 40 of their members from South Australia and up the east coast of NSW will be participating. If anyone has other ideas about ways to make this Expo even more special, the sub-committee would love to hear from you. **Jane Worthington** has volunteered to be my assistant in organising the Expo this year, and I gratefully thank her for this. I am glad to see that we have a number of new names as well as returning regulars on the organising sub-committee.

July seems like a long way away at present, but it's amazing how quickly that time will pass. Remember that the Expo is a display of work that our members have done, and is meant to reflect the variety of woodwork and the various levels of skill that are present among our members. Any member is welcome to submit their work and everyone is welcome to participate. Nothing is judged, so I encourage all of you to get cracking with your entries now. Because it was so successful last year, we will be running our People's Choice Award again, and our popular Lucky Dip also. We will need volunteers to help prepare the lucky dip prizes very soon, rather than leaving them until the last minute, so if anyone can help, please talk to **Drew Mackay** or **Andrew Pinxt**.

Printing of our advertising flyers and raffle tickets will be done in the next few weeks, with the intention of having them available for the April Farmers Market, which is the weekend after Easter (not far away!). We will need lots of help from all our members to sell the tickets over the coming months, and to distribute the flyers from May onwards.

Entry forms will be available from mid-April, with entries closing on 26<sup>th</sup> June. Like last year, the exhibition will be in our club rooms, and in order to keep the exhibition fresh, entries are limited to pieces that have not been exhibited before. Members have the option of offering them for sale or not. Pieces that members would like to sell but can't be included in the exhibition, can be registered on our Sales Only entry form that will become available at the same time. These pieces will again be displayed in our workshop area. All sales will incur a 15% commission to the club to help offset the costs of the Expo, so when pricing your work, remember to factor the commission into your price. When the entry forms become available, we will also be posting rosters for members to volunteer their time at a number of demonstration stations throughout the workshop. We intend to demonstrate wood turning, rocking horse making, scroll saw, bandsaw, pyrography, Dremel work, and our laser & CNC facilities. We would also love to hear from members with other skills that they would like to demonstrate (e.g. wood carving, marquetry, etc.), so please let any of the sub-committee know. We would love to see these rosters filled with volunteers.

The last few weeks leading up to the Expo will be very busy, with lots of tasks to complete. We will have a cleanup working bee in the clubrooms and workshop on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> July with our traditional sausage sizzle. The workshop will be out of bounds for members normal use from then until after the Expo has been cleared out and all the machines returned to their normal positions on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> July. Delivery of entries will occur between Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> and Monday 6<sup>th</sup> July, and clubroom access will become limited progressively as the entries arrive. We have tried to limit the inconvenience of restricted access to both areas to as short as possible, but once the workshop has been cleaned and the entries start turning up, we won't have time to clean up again. There is a lot of work to do after the entries arrive to set up the display tables, move the machinery, set up the demonstration stations, establish the catering facilities in the breezeway, print the display cards, and more, so we will be looking for lots of volunteers to help with these tasks in that last week while the restricted access is in place. I thank all members for your understanding in this regard.

Since its inception, our Expo has been an outstanding success every year, and this is due entirely to the commitment and involvement of our members. We are the envy of nearly every other woodworking club in Victoria and further afield, and our success is also reflected in the number of new member applications we receive after each Expo. It also helps to raise the club's profile within the community which provides many benefits and opportunities for us. So I encourage each and every one of you to get busy with your entries, and to put your hands up to help with any of the many tasks that will need doing to make our 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary Expo the best one yet.

Cheers, - **John McMahon**.



**VALE CORRY VAN DIEMEN**

It is with great sadness that we learned, recently, of the passing of **Corry Van Diemen**, wife of **Martin**. Those of us who knew Corry knew a busy, cheerful woman who was always ready to lend a helping hand and an encouraging word to neighbours, friends, and charitable causes. Among her varied community activities Corry worked as a volunteer in the Red Cross shop in Berwick and even through her illness continued to take a neighbour shopping every week. She will be dearly missed in many ways.

Our deepest condolences go to Martin and his family.

A group of club members attended St. Michaels Church in Berwick on 20<sup>th</sup> March to celebrate Corry’s life.

**Not for Show & Tell: Brian Roberts** has sent me this photo of the bowl he has made for his sister-in-law in Edinburgh, who turns 70 in May. Brian says, “My recent achievement, beautiful mixed colours, cut and laminated and turned on the lathe.”



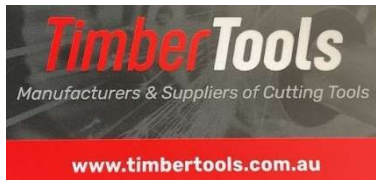
**Katerina Zorin** sent the photo at right, of the kitchen shelf which she has made from pallet wood. **Peter Ball** has helped Kat to fix the shelf to the wall.



**Berwick Woodies Facebook Page:**

Many of our members may not be aware that the club has a Facebook page. The site is easily found under the title **Berwick Woodies** and often shows details that don’t make it to our newsletter. A recent example is this post by **John McMahon**, with John’s personal comment, “*Lemon Scented Gum hollow form, textured, pyro’d, & coloured with an el-cheapo set of Aldi alcohol-based marker pens. This was commenced during a demonstration of finishing & embellishing techniques for a nearby turning club recently.*”

Thanks again to our sponsors for their continued support throughout the year.



**Best Wishes.** To those of our members who are managing ill health at present, or are caring for sick loved ones, we send our best wishes for a speedy recovery

**Welcome.** To those members who have joined us this month. Wael Halabi, Sagree Naidu, Kishore Pillai, Anouchka Clark, Carl Jayasinghe, we look forward to getting to know you.

AN ANALYSIS OF ACCIDENTS AT CIRCULAR SAWS INDICATED THE FOLLOWING ACCIDENTS ARE THE ONES MOST LIKELY TO OCCUR.

Left or right hand met the blade while pushing timber through	30%
Wood jumped or snatched or was thrown back by saw	25%
Using right hand to clear cut pieces from back of saw	15%
Removing wood from rear of saw	10%
Using push-stick, stick slipped or caught in saw	3%
Clearing wood or sawdust while saw was running	3%
Cross-cutting on circular saw	2%
Wood broke or splintered and piece was ejected	2%
Miscellaneous causes	10%



**Using an unguarded saw is dangerous and illegal. Always ensure that the blade guard is in place before switching on the machine.**

Just a thought before you go:

*The Jury....*

*In a criminal justice system based on 12 individuals not smart enough to get out of jury duty, here is a jury to be proud of:*

*A defendant was on trial for murder. There was strong evidence indicating guilt, **but there was no corpse.** In the defence's closing statement, the lawyer, knowing that his client would probably be convicted, resorted to a trick.*

*"Ladies and gentlemen of the jury, I have a surprise for you all," the lawyer said as he looked at his watch. "Within one minute, the person presumed dead in this case will walk into this courtroom." He looked toward the courtroom door. The jurors, somewhat stunned, all looked on eagerly.*

*A minute passed. Nothing happened. Finally the lawyer said, "Actually, I made up the previous statement. But you all looked on with anticipation. I, therefore, put it to you that you have a reasonable doubt in this case as to whether anyone was killed, and I insist that you return a verdict of not guilty."*

*The jury retired to deliberate. A few minutes later, the jury returned and pronounced a verdict of guilty. "But how?" inquired the lawyer. "You must have had some doubt; I saw all of you stare at the door."*

*The jury foreman replied: "Yes, we did look .....but your client didn't"*

That's all for now. With thanks again to **Carol Goddard** for her help with proofreading this newsletter. Until next time stay well and stay safe.

