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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 February 2019

DATES TO REMEMBER: Committee Meeting - 25th February, 1.00 in the clubroom.

Monthly Meeting - 6th March, 1.00 in the clubroom.

Berwick Show - 23rd/24th February, Arkunah Park Showgrounds, High Street, Berwick.

Pakenham Show - Saturday 16th March, P.B. Ronald Reserve, Cnr. Henry & John Streets, Pakenham.

Club Luncheon - 11th April, 12.00 Noon, Lynbrook Hotel, Sth. Gippsland Highway Lyndhurst.

A TIME FOR FIRSTS.

Berwick Woodworkers' long awaited new clubroom is now available for its members to use. Although the official opening day will not happen until early March, club members have been able to use the facilities for a couple of weeks. **Brian Crowe** sent this photo of the first morning tea which took place on 23rd January.



Quite a milestone for us after more than 30 years in the old premises.

Work continues on the new workshop, which although finished still has lots to do, arranging machinery, building fixtures etc., before it is fully functional.



Another first took place when **Elsie Hoare** managed to find a quiet corner in which to work on the dolls' double bunks that are a part of our toy production. **Bill Bradshaw** took this photo of the first construction to take place in the new workshop.

CLUB INFORMATION:

MEETINGS:

COMMITTEE	GENERAL	SPEAKERS ETC	FARMERS' MARKET
25th February	6th March	--	23rd February 9th March

Committee of Management:

Contact Details	Name	Phone
President	Len Preece	59405564
Vice President	Brian Crowe	9702 2041
Secretary	Richard Gething	9704 5417
	email: bdwvcsec@outlook.com	
Treasurer	Peter Angwin	5941 1272

Committee

Rick Hoare 9707 4608
 John McMahon 9796 1097
 Martin Van Diemen 9707 5305
 Ken Whitefield 9704 9701
 Ken D. Barnes 0419 114 738

- Monthly meeting speaker - temporarily vacant
- Functions Coordinator - Rick Hoare
- Newsletter Editor - Elsie Hoare
- Public relations - Len Preece
- OCF users group - Len Preece
- Toy Coordinator - Ken D. Barnes.
- Machinery maintenance Supervisor - Jack Croucher & Brian Crowe
- Health and Safety Coordinator - Whole committee
- Member's welfare coordinator - Ken Whitefield
- Kits for kids coordinator - Ken Whitefield
- Raffle Coordinator - Len Preece
- Farmers Market Coordinator - Martin Van Diemen
- Special interest group coordinators - Depends on group
- Librarian - Keith Towe
- Screws - Martin Van Diemen
- Paint - George Young
- Timber coordinator - Martin Van Diemen
- Web/Web master - Jack Croucher
- Mens' Shed coordinator - Wayne Lucas.
- Great Art Show - John McMahon (with sub-committee)

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 two 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.

Workshops & Meetings:

Weekly	Hours	Activity	Leader
Monday Morning	9.00 am - 2.30 pm	Toys -	Eric Guthrie
Tuesday Morning	9.00 am - 2.30 pm	Toys -	John Damon
Wednesday Morning	9.00 am - 1.00 pm	General -	Bob McArthur
Wednesday Evening	5.00 pm - 9.00 pm	General -	Martin Van Diemen
Thursday Morning	9.00 am - 1.00 pm	Fine W/work -	Maurice Deeker
Friday Morning	9.00 am - 1.00 pm	General -	Richard Gething
Saturday Morning	9.00 am - 1.00 pm on market days or by private arrangement on other Saturdays.		

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Berwick Woodworkers wish to thank **Gary Maas MP** State Member for Narre Warren South, and his staff for their support in printing this newsletter for us. 9704 6055.

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.



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Talking of the new workshops, they are now underway. We have access to the new buildings and we now just about have the Log Cabin set up with tables and chairs too. The Breezeway is also almost set up with saw benches in place and the timber racks also there. The paint shop is also ready. The dust extraction is in place and the machinery moved. Thanks to Hare and Forbes for the wonderful support, we were able to get all the machines down in less than a day. We are hoping to be fully in operation by late February when the buildings will be officially handed over to us by the City of Casey. Many thanks, to all members who have contributed to the move so far.

We have hit another stumbling block with the power to the extractor not being quite right but we are currently working though that and should be all sorted out by the time you read this newsletter.

A tentative date has been set for the official hand over/opening by the City of Casey, that being Saturday 2nd March 2019, there will be notices in the clubroom once this date is finalized and the Secretary will advise all members by email.

A 12 metre skip bin was ordered and delivered last week and all the rubbish and old equipment was disposed of. The place is now looking quite respectable again.

Once again thanks to the many helpers.

Len Preece - President

FEBRUARY GENERAL MEETING.

Club president **Len Preece** welcomed 31 members to our first General Meeting in the new clubroom. Although we had no guest speaker, there was still plenty to learn as Len brought us up to date with all that has been happening in recent weeks. Following the drawing of the door prize which was won by **Mark Bellis**, and Show & Tell which was presented by **Rick Hoare**, we enjoyed afternoon tea and biscuits.

SHOW & TELL: **Eric Guthrie** showed us the walking stick he has made from laminated hardwoods. The handle is buffalo horn which has been boiled then bent to shape.



Keith Towe made the hand mirrors at left. The top mirror is Peruvian walnut which Keith says is a very expensive wood and "terrible stuff" to turn as it is so very dusty. The floral inset is a mystery wood. Keith's other mirror is a very pretty piece of river red gum, a fence post that was too good to burn. The mirrors are gifts for Keith's nieces.

Chris Drysdale showed the figure of an owl carved in a piece of claret ash. The stains used are white and jarah Livus oil. The fountain pen is by Chris also. The wood is olive.



CAUGHT IN ACTION AROUND THE WORKSHOP. Although it's true that we have been able to move into our new premises, there is still a lot to be done to make the building fit our specific needs. Fortunately, here at Berwick Woodies we have a number of skilled club members who can call on their varied experience to tackle these jobs. Below left, John Damon, trained in electronics checks out the wiring.



Lance Baker, with a background in carpentry, carries out a small alteration. Below, Brian Crowe, a retired electrician and Bob McArthur a fitter & turner are busy with the radial arm saw to cut timber to build the toy storage fixtures.



Martin Van Diemen, left, was in the trucking industry as well as farming and is a mean hand with woodworking tools.



Left, **Martin Van Diemen & Ken Whitefield** (retired policeman) join forces to work on the toy storage shelves.



Alexander Drysdale (ex Merchant Navy) Tries out the thicknesser, while at right, **Stan Firmin** (ex Postman) cleans up the sander.



Ross Blackwood, below, (electrical and engineering draftsman) and **John Membry** (carpentry) deal with one of the lathes.





VALE BOB BLAKER

With sadness we have learned that **Robert (Bob) Blaker** passed away on the 11th February 2019 at Peninsula Private Hospital.

A talented leather worker, Bob has made saddles for some of the club's rocking horses; sadly his illness has kept him away from the club in recent months.

A service to celebrate Bob's life, was held at Bunurong Memorial Park, Cumulus Chapel, 790 Frankston-Dandenong Road, Dandenong South, on Monday February 18th. - 10am.

Our condolences and best wishes go out to Bob's widow Pam and their family.



CLUB ACTIVITIES.

From time to time, members are asked just what it is that we do here at Berwick Woodworkers. It is often assumed that we are a *Mens Shed*. In fact, although we belong to the *Victorian Mens Shed Association*, ours is purely a Woodworkers Club with our **prime interest** being the **craft of woodwork**, in contrast to a Mens Shed where the activities and interests are more varied.

In addition to the many beautifully crafted items made by our members, we have become known for the toys that our toy teams turn out each year to support local welfare organisations.

Club President **Len Preece** has put together the following list detailing the club's activities.

Communities Supported by the Club - by Len Preece 11th February 2019

Berwick District Woodworkers supports a number of service groups and schools in the area.

- A Casey Information & Support Service Narre Warren
- B Casey Information & Support Service Cranbourne
- C Windermere Support Services
- D Southern Migrant Resource Centre
- E 4Cs Community Support Service Pakenham
- F Turning Point Cranbourne

The Club makes wooden toys for these groups each year for disadvantaged Children at Christmas. Last year we were able to present these clubs with just over 900 wooden toys. With an estimated value of over \$35,000 each year

The Club also assists the Officer Specialist School, where we make *Kits for Kids* in August each year (last year we assisted 180 students) with a wooden article that they can assemble with our assistance and take home for their parent/s.

We also do minor repairs to furniture for the general community where applicable, and make various items for the local schools.

To enable the community to purchase fresh fruit and vegetables direct from the farmers a Farmers Market is held on the second and fourth Saturday of each month.

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A NEW BEGINNING. Here is our old workshop, so full of noise and laughter for the past 30+ years, now an empty shell. **Peter Angwin** sent this photo, and since it was taken the rooms have been thoroughly cleaned and handed over to the Old Cheese Factory ready for the new life that is planned for them.

I hope the rooms will serve their new purpose as successfully as they have done for us.

SPECIAL BIRTHDAYS. Club members took great pleasure, recently, in wishing two of our longest serving members a very happy birthday. **George Young** chose to mark his **90th** birthday with a *'Burns Night'* gathering, commemorating the birthday of Robert Burns. The evening celebrated all things Scottish, including the traditional 'Piping In of the Haggis' and reading of some of the works of Robert Burns. Pictured below is George, with his birthday cake depicting the St. Andrew flag. For those who are not familiar with a haggis, it is a spicy, savoury dish of blended meats and cereal, eaten with a sauce of a *wee drop* of whisky and accompanied by neeps & tatties (Swede turnip & potatoes) and served as an entree. There it is, over on the right, following its ceremonial slicing by George.



Eric Guthrie enjoyed his 80th birthday with family and friends and he and wife Catherine shared some cake with club members at morning tea on the following Monday morning.

Here's wishing these two well liked members Many Happy Returns of their birthday



Cath & Eric Guthrie on the occasion of Eric's 80th birthday.



These days you never know when there will be a camera around. **Brian Crowe** snapped this picture a few days ago when **George Young** tried to turn his car into an all-terrain vehicle, but it didn't work, he got stuck. With a little help from some club members and some lumps of wood he was soon on his way again.

A LIGHTER MOMENT

A newly married man asked his wife, 'Would you have married me if my father hadn't left me a fortune?' 'Honey,' the woman replied sweetly, 'I'd have married you, no matter who left you a fortune!'

SIGNS DESIGNED TO MAKE YOU SMILE.

At an Optometrist's Office:
*"If you don't see what you're looking for,
 You've come to the right place."*

On a Plumber's truck :
"We repair what your husband fixed."

Outside a Muffler Shop:
"No appointment necessary. We hear you coming."

USEFUL TREES - by Keith Towe.

We all admire and seek colourful and figured Timbers. We hunt for those Timbers with Fiddle back and blister grain to add another visual element to our Woodwork or Turnings, but how many of us realize the medicinal benefits that many of our Native Trees contain.

The Chinese, the Egyptians, American Indians, and many other cultures have utilized the Medicinal properties of their Native Trees for many 1000's of years and these properties are well understood and faithfully recorded.

Here in Australia our Indigenous community have used the Medicinal properties of our trees for over 50 000 years but until recently nothing has been formally written down or recorded. Our people have passed down these special properties by word of mouth, and I have read that the main source of knowledge now lies with Indigenous women, as many men "cannot be bothered", thank goodness for the women.

A lot has been written about the benefits of certain shrubs, bushes, and Roots etc., but as I have a great interest in Native Trees, I would like to mention some in this category and maybe add a couple in future issues of our Newsletter.

Pittosporum phillyreoides:- This tree is from the same family as the now classified pest tree *Pittosporum undulatum*, which is becoming an invasive weed.

The *phillyreoides* species: The indigenous people call it Gumbi Gumbi, or Cumbi Cumbi, and many of our Tree lovers call it Weeping *Pittosporum*, or Native Apricot. It is a small neat tree with long slender leaves and produces a small orange coloured fruit which is edible, but it is the leaves that are mainly used to treat Cancer and other ailments, with some remarkable claims being made for the use of this species.

I like most *Pittosporum* trees as they have nice white timber that holds its whiteness for a long time, and although it not usually available in large sizes, and it can get a Blue stain if kept in a damp place it turns beautifully. If this subject interests you look it up on the internet.



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Berwick District Woodworkers Club. **Minutes Monthly Meeting 6th February, 2019.**

Meeting Commenced 1.05pm

Welcome to Members President Len Preece welcomed 31 members.

Apologies

Mike Kingett, John McMahon and Wayne Lucas.

Minutes of previous monthly meeting. – 7th November, 2018.

- In Newsletter.

Motion to accept minutes. Proposed – Alexander Drysdale. Seconded – Brian Crowe. Motion carried.

Business arising from previous meeting

- Nil.

Correspondence.

- Email from the Monash Climate Change Communication Research Hub offering our members the opportunity to participate in their climate change program with the Leader newspaper. We will put details on our notice board.
- A summary of the correspondence from the latest committee meeting was read.

Motion to accept correspondence. Proposed – Chris Drysdale. Seconded – Ken Whitefield. Motion carried.

President's Report.

- Thank you to all members who have helped with the workshop relocation, particularly Brian Crowe and Bill Bradshaw.
- The MOTY award for last year was awarded to Ken Whitefield.
- The electricians will come tomorrow to carry out the final wiring and connection.
- Our parking areas will be on the west side of the workshop and the existing areas near the Farmers' Market. Please avoid the other areas where the ground works are being finished.
- The 12 metre rubbish skip will arrive on Monday.
- When the new tables arrive we will scrap the table tops and send the metal legs to be recycled.
- Our containers are ready to be collected, thank you Martin Van Diemen, Ken Whitefield and Collin Ellard.
- The cleaning of our log cabin will be our responsibility. Any member wishing to take up a contract for the work please see Len Preece, Brian Crowe or Peter Angwin. The toilets will be cleaned daily and the kitchen weekly.
- Three outlets on our dust extraction system must remain open at all times. Three outlets will have no shut off valve and when using other outlets be sure to open them at the start and close when finished.
- The entry path to our club room will be concreted. Until then ensure you wipe any stones from your shoes.
- The formal handover will probably be on 2nd March.
- The Berwick Show and our Farmers' Market will be on the 23rd February.
- Micronair will finish their work this Friday.
- The cupboards in our existing workshop will be dismantled.
- The Hare and Forbes demonstration will be on the 28th to 30th March.
- Our shift with the Hare and Forbes contractor went very well.
- When showing people around the club rooms and workshop it is important they see what we do. A list has been prepared to help.
- A first aid kit has been installed outside the office door. Another one will be installed in the workshop.

Motion to accept the President's report. Proposed – Pat Mahoney. Seconded – Keith Towe. Motion Carried

Treasurer's report.

- As attached.
- The grant from Jason Wood MP will now go towards the dust extraction system.
- Our balances are adequate to cover any further expenditure.
- The final club expenditure is uncertain at present.
- The Farmers' Market continues to go well.
- We have 85 financial members.

Motion to accept the Treasurer's report. Proposed – Martin Van Diemen. Seconded – Ken Whitefield. Motion carried.

New Workshop.

- Thanks to all members for your help in the relocation work. Work has progressed well.
- Some minor works are still needed.
- Cupboards and racks are being installed.
- The workshop has been insulated and lined.
- Normal work should commence in the next few weeks.
- The door from the log cabin to the workshop will be installed soon.
- The building looks good.

Farmers Market.

- All going well.
- Thanks to all who have supported the market.

Functions and Demonstrations.

- Our club lunch will be on 18th April at the Lynbrook Hotel.
- Jason Wood MP will visit the club on 28th February at 11.15 am.
- The Berwick Show will be held on 23rd and 24th February. We are in a new location, out the back, under the veranda near the fruit and goldfish area. Rick Hoare will be there early on Saturday to show members where to go. Our hat, cap, badge or shirt will gain us access.

Newsletter.

- All okay at present. Thanks Elsie Hoare.

General Business.

- We are looking for people who would like to undertake cleaning duties in the new log cabin.
- The new dust extraction system will have a one button switch control. Micronair will be monitoring the unit.
- The sawdust disposal has yet to be finalised.
- Two recycle bins will be available and they will be emptied on Monday mornings.
- The toilet holders have been changed and the partition will be removed.
- When using the hand dryer please shake excess water from hands first.

Show & Tell.

- Presented by Rick Hoare.

Door Prize.

- Won by Mark Bellis.

Meeting closed at 2.05 pm. Next meeting Wednesday 6th March, 2019 at 1.00pm.

President - Len Preece

Secretary – Richard Gething.

Something nice for our new clubroom wall:



That's about all for now until next time.