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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 2025

DATES TO REMEMBER Committee Meeting – Wednesday 16th April - 1:00pm in clubroom. **General Meeting** - Wednesday 23rd April. 1:00pm in clubroom. As always it will be preceded by a free BBQ lunch at 12 noon. Hope to see you there. **Club Luncheon**. Thursday 24th April - 12noon at Pine Grove Hotel, 45-51 Stoney Creek Road, Upper Beaconsfield. They have a website to view:
<https://www.pinegrovehotel.com.au/>

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.



Good afternoon all. It was nice to finally see a bit of rain over the weekend and a drop in temperature, it makes it a bit more comfortable for us.
I don't have a lot to report on at this stage as everything seems to be running fairly smoothly at the moment. We are still waiting on the dates that the work on the function room will commence, the suggestion is during November so we have tentatively booked the room for the last week of October for our Gala Day. I should know more in May.
We are still receiving enquiries to join our club and new members are being appointed, so if you see a new face in the clubrooms, make yourself known to them. Remember that to us a new member is one new face, to the new member there are 30-40 new faces, so help them to join in and get involved.

To the many members who are extremely generous with their time in making toys at home, could you keep **Simon King** and **Julie Robinson** updated on your progress, enabling them to keep their records current, particularly as our Gala day may be early.

Ron Bolton has noticed that there has been an amount of treated pine in one of our timber racks. As treated pine is banned from use in the club, we need to be a bit more vigilant, if you have any doubts about whether any timber is treated, contact one of the Go-To members.

I would like to remind members that the speed limit policy of the city of Casey when entering the OCF site is walking pace and is not to be treated as our own speedway. There will be 10kph signs erected shortly, so for safety reasons please slow down.

That's about all from me,

Brian.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

We have had several new members recently and are delighted to welcome, **Dylan Fabre, Chris Poletti, Srikant Rajan, Wayne Dinneen, John Bird, Tuan Packeer, Joseph Rinaudo, Rodolfo Rabinovich**, and welcome back to **Sam Ciampini**.

Here's hoping you are all settling in and enjoying your time with us.

CLUB INFORMATION

MEETINGS:

COMMITTEE

Wednesday 16th April 1:00pm

GENERAL

Wednesday 23rd April 1:00pm

MARKETS – Volunteers needed

Saturday 12th April Farmers Market

Saturday 10th May Farmers Market

Committee of Management:

Position	Name	Phone
President	Brian Crowe	0438 012 155
Vice President	Ron Bolton	0413 152 391
Secretary	Don Buchanan	0431 313 998 email: bdwwcsec@outlook.com
Treasurer	Peter Ball	0425 725 875

Committee	Phone
John McMahon	9796 1097
Ken Whitefield	0402 256 134
Michael Berry	0466 812 717
Ian Deans	0403 419 774
Simon King	0477 831 318
Peter Shuttleworth	0402 680 605
Julie Robinson	0481 088 390
Carol Goddard	0422 395 565

Newsletter Contributions

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

Contacts

Equipment authorisation approved members - *Brian Crowe, Don Buchanan, Simon King and Ron Bolton.*

Health and Safety Coordinator – *Peter Shuttleworth*

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

Timber Coordinator - *Martin Van Diemen*

Screws - *Martin Van Diemen*

Paint - *George Young*

Toy Coordinators - *Simon King & Ron Bolton*

Functions Coordinator - *Don Buchanan*

Gala Day Coordinator - *Brian Crowe*

Annual Expo - *John McMahon*

Farmers Market Coordinators - *Martin Van Diemen & Don Buchanan*

Public Relations - *Don Buchanan*

OCF Contacts - *Brian Crowe & Don Buchanan*

Webmaster - *Ron Bolton*

Newsletter Editor - *Elsie Hoare*

Members' Welfare Coordinator - *Ken Whitefield*

Men's Shed Coordinator - *Wayne Lucas*

Membership Fees:

	Joining	Annual
Individual	\$40.00	\$65.00
Family of 2	\$60.00	\$100.00
Family of more than 2 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	Bill Bradshaw
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
Sunday Farmers Market	10:00 am – 1:00 pm	TBA

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 NOTES FROM JOHN MCMAHON.

Planning for this year's Expo is now well under way, so hopefully everyone is busy on their entries. Don't forget that this is an exhibition of the work our members do, no matter how experienced or in-experienced they are, so everyone is encouraged to submit their work for display, and for sale if they wish.

The Expo will be run over the weekend of Friday 11th July to Sunday 13th July. Entry forms will become available in May, and entries will close on Friday 4th July, which is not all that far away.

Our advertising flyers are almost complete and will be going for print in the next week. Raffle prizes have also been determined and printing of the raffle tickets will happen soon. We hope to have the flyers and the raffle tickets available for the April Farmers Market. Flyer distribution through our suppliers, local businesses, and letterbox drops will occur in May & June, and we will need lots of members to be involved in this please.

This year we are introducing a People's Choice Award for the first time. Visitors will be asked to vote for their favourite piece on display, which should add a bit of interest. We will continue to have our exhibition pieces displayed in the clubrooms, and non-exhibition sales items in the workshop. Once again, we will also have a selection of timber for sale.

A clean-up working bee and bbq are planned for Thursday 3rd July, and from then until Monday 14th July the workshop will be off-limits for members to undertake any work other than assist in setting up the expo. Some parts of the clubrooms will also be restricted during this time as entries are received & we start to set up the displays. While restrictions to access of any sort are regrettable, we have done our best to keep them to a minimum and still be able to present another fantastic Expo.

The Expo sub-committee will be meeting again at 10.30am on Wednesday 16th April in the clubrooms & new members are always welcome. In the meantime, get busy with your entries.



A reminder of one of the sales tables at last year's expo.

A MESSAGE FROM Don Buchanan.

Just a few reminders to members to please consider while working at the club. These points will also be raised at our next General Meeting on 23rd April.

It is still happening - machines are still being left running and members walking away. SO PLEASE ensure the machine has been turned off and has stopped running before walking away. If this situation continues, it is just a matter of time before a member is injured by a machine that is still running. I just hope it is not me.

- If you are working on a bench, please leave it clean and free from any rubbish. Also, put your tools away that you have been using, back in their place.
- If you are wanting to leave your work on a bench for a time, please put your name on it, so we know who owns it. If necessary, to make more bench space, your work may be moved out of the way and stored in a safe place.
- When using a machine that is attached to the dust extraction system. Please open the gate before starting, but then shut it down when you have finished. If a large number of gates are left open, it does reduce the efficiency of the extraction system.
- When driving into the site, please watch your speed. The speed limit is 10kmh. Speed signs will soon be installed. If you drive fast, your car stirs up a lot of dust for the neighbours nearby and there is a chance, on a busy day, you may hit someone. So please slow down.



ANOTHER IMPORTANT REMINDER. It's good to see **Wayne Lucas** back in the workshop following his prolonged absence due to a stroke in May last year. Wayne was alerted to the stroke and realised that something was seriously wrong when he lost all feeling in the left side of his face. Wayne's wife Bernadette quickly got him the medical attention he needed.

Not one to do things by halves, Wayne suffered two strokes, with the second one occurring in June as he was recuperating from the first. Added to his problems was a shadow discovered on one of his lungs, followed by bereavement when his older brother passed away. In all it hasn't been the best year for Wayne and our belated, sincere condolences go to him and the Lucas family for their sad loss.

The good news is that the shadow on Wayne's lung turned out to be benign and with various stroke therapy sessions he is regaining his old skills.

Most of all, Wayne wants to warn his friends not to ignore the signs of stroke and to take quick action. **A stroke is always a medical emergency. The longer a stroke remains untreated, the greater the chance of stroke-related brain damage**



A MEMORY FROM THE PAST. Leafing through some back copies of the newsletter I found the following tip for turners, which was published in the February 2008 issue. It was sent to us by **Keith Towe**.

"Old green handled Philips Head screw drivers are great for both knockout bars, and as lever bars for scroll chucks.

Cut off the Philips head section with a thin abrasive cutting blade in your angle grinder, and they fit perfectly. The R3 size is OK for 100mm chuck, and the R4 size for 150mm chuck"

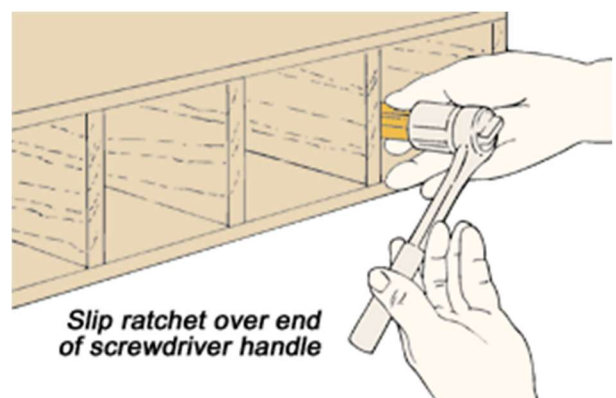
Thanks again, Keith.

And whilst on the subject of screw drivers, I found this tip on the internet.

Screwdriver Extension

Recently, I was trying to screw a storage cabinet in place and ran into a small problem. There wasn't enough room to get both my hand and the screwdriver inside the cabinet opening at the same time.

Since I didn't have a long screwdriver with me, I rummaged through my toolbox for inspiration. What I found was a socket that fit snug over the end of my screwdriver handle (a twelve-point socket works best). Then I used my ratchet to tighten the screws, as you can see in the drawing at right.



A NOTE FROM A PAST MEMBER.

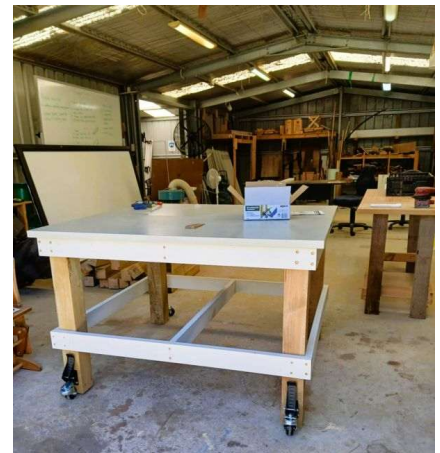
The friendly atmosphere that we enjoy here at Berwick District Woodworkers is such that some past members like to keep in touch when they leave the area. One of those past members is **Peri Biviano**, who left us to move to Ballarat some years ago and sometimes drops in to see us, when she is back in Berwick, visiting family. Peri is feeling pretty 'chuffed' at present as the women's woodworking group, to which she belongs, has acquired its own workshop. Now 50 members strong and proudly named **Women's Shed, Ballarat**, the group had its Grand Opening on March 9th this year.

The women inherited the building from Ballarat Men's Shed when they upgraded. Before taking possession of the shed, the women had a lot of work to do, as, in Peri's words, *"It was in a bit of a mess when we took over. It's a beautiful space now but very void of tools."*

A donation of \$650 worth of tools from a local store has made Peri very happy.

Peri says the Women's Shed Ballarat is *"a great social hub at the moment, which is priceless."*

At right are Peri with the shed sign ready to be installed on the side of the shed, and a look at the shed's interior. Below are the donated tools.





SOMETHING DIFFERENT. Whatever happened to plain old-fashioned drop-sided cots for babies. Here's a couple of bright ideas for prospective parents or grandparents to try.

ANOTHER INTERNET FIND. Here is a simple method of making a sanding block.



BEST WISHES. To those of our members who are unwell at present, or caring for unwell partners, we send our best wishes for a quick recovery and hope to see you again soon.

THE VALUE OF A JIG, by Elsie Hoare. A toy that has been part of the club's Gala Day presentation for many years is the double-bunk dolls bed. Made up of 44 pieces cobbled together it is an exacting job, so I only manage to get through 12 beds each year but the task is made easier by the use of two jigs.

Originally, back in 2009, the pieces were put together, using a narrow offcut of wood as a spacer, to achieve uniformity. It was a character-building exercise as, invariably, the parts moved before they could be glued and nailed in place, requiring a few choice words and a lot of painstaking, double handling.

Enter the late **Bob McArthur**. Bob had been a fitter and turner before his retirement and had a keen eye for seeing how things worked. Putting his mind to the task and using scrap wood from the club's store, Bob constructed two sturdy jigs to hold the bed parts securely in place, reducing construction time and frustration considerably. For a repetitive job, where precision is important, a jig is an asset and I thank Bob McArthur every time I use those that he made for me.



Bed ends, glued and nailed.



Mattress base, glued and clamped without nails.

MANY THANKS for the continued support of our sponsors.



Some Web links that you may like to check out -

Victorian Men's Shed Association. <https://www.vmsa.org.au/news2/>

For an up-to-date list of woodwork events, Council of Woodwork Clubs

<https://www.councilwoodworkclubs.org/events>

Newsletter Archive | UK Men's Sheds Association | [UKMSMA \(menssheds.org.uk\)](http://UKMSMA(menssheds.org.uk))

Brian Crowe has been doing some reminiscing. Here are his thoughts .

EATING IN THE 50s

1. Pasta was not eaten
2. Curry was a surname.
3. A takeaway was a mathematical problem
4. A pizza was something to do with a leaning tower.
5. Crisps were plain; the only choice we had was whether to put the salt on or not.
6. Rice was only eaten as a milk pudding.
7. A Big Mac was what we wore when it was raining.
8. Brown bread was something only poor people ate.
9. Oil was for lubricating. Fat was for cooking.
10. Tea was made in a teapot using tea leaves and never green.
11. Sugar enjoyed a good press in those days, and was regarded as being white gold. Cubed sugar was regarded as posh.
12. Fish didn't have fingers.
13. Eating raw fish was called poverty, not sushi.
14. None of us had ever heard of yoghurt.
15. Healthy food consisted of anything edible.
16. People who didn't peel potatoes were regarded as lazy.
17. Indian restaurants were only found in India.
18. Cooking outside was called camping.
19. Seaweed was not a recognised food.
20. "Kebab" was not even a word, never mind a food.
21. Prunes were medicinal.
22. Surprisingly, muesli was readily available, it was called cattle feed.
23. Water came out of the tap. If someone had suggested bottling it and charging more than petrol for it they would have become a laughing stock!
24. And the things that we never ever had on our table in the 50s and 60s: elbows or phones.

Michael Berry and **Ross Blackwood** have been doing some serious thinking. Here are some of their conclusions.

Money can't buy happiness - but it's far more comfortable to cry in a Porsche than on a bicycle.

Forgive your enemy - but remember their name.

Alcohol does not solve problems - but then, neither does milk.

So, you drive across town to a gym to walk on a treadmill?

Even duct tape can't fix stupid – but it sure does muffle the sound.

Tip for a successful marriage: Don't ask your wife when dinner will be ready while she's mowing the lawn.

People who wonder if the glass is half empty or half full miss the point. The glass is refillable.

That's all for now, with thanks once again to **Carol Goddard** for help with proof reading this newsletter.

Until next time, stay well and stay safe.

