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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 January/February 2025

DATES TO REMEMBER Committee Meeting – Wednesday March 12th - 1:00pm in clubroom. **General Meeting** - Wednesday April 23rd. 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** mid-April. Date and venue to be advised.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.



Good afternoon, all,

It is great to see that the club is back in full swing with members working on the toy program and their own projects as well; it creates a very happy work environment and atmosphere in the workshop.

We have been the recipient of an incredible supply of kiln-dried Vic ash through a contact of **Peter Mason**, many thanks Peter. I would encourage members to use this wood wherever possible in the toy making or home projects and by doing so we should be able to extend our supply of pine.

There is a little concern of members leaving a machine running after completing their work and just walking away. I know it is easy to get distracted by thinking of what you are going to do next, but it does create an unsafe working environment, so let us all be a little more careful.

I would encourage all members to give some thought to our Expo, we need to support John in his endeavour to produce an attractive display; to do this we need a variation of woodcraft ideas, let's not leave it up to a few members. Any ideas of woodcraft will be greatly appreciated, so let's all get involved.

Because the club is functioning so well at the moment this is just a short report, so that's all from me **Brian**.

MOTY AWARD. 2023/2024

A pleasant task, performed by **Brian Crowe**, at the General Meeting in February, was the presentation of the club's **Member of the Year award**. Finding it difficult to choose between two members whose contribution to the welfare of the club is invaluable, Brian decided to make the award to both members. So here they are: to **Simon King** for his continuous attention to our machines, keeping them in tip-top condition, and **Peter Ball**, club Treasurer, who navigates the sea of complicated rules and regulations that keep the club afloat financially.

Two very worthy recipients.

Thanks to **Carol Goddard** for taking this photo.



CLUB INFORMATION

MEETINGS:

COMMITTEE

Wednesday March 12th 1:00pm

GENERAL

Wednesday 23rd April 1:00pm

MARKETS – Volunteers needed

Saturday 8th March Farmers Market

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.

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 |

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.





Another award handed out by Brian, at the General Meeting this month, was a plaque of appreciation awarded to **Ken Barnes** who has stepped down from his position as Events Coordinator following several years of service. **Dianne Gething** snapped this photo for me. The message on the plaque reads:

*To Ken Barnes on behalf of our members – thank you for your years of dedication in the position of Club Events Coordinator.
It is very much appreciated.*

CATCHING UP: With the first two months of 2025 gone already, here's a reminder of some of the activities that kept us busy over the holiday period.

Ron Bolton's charcuterie board that was featured in Show & Tell in September last year, made it to the U.S. Here are Ian and Linda with the board which was a gift for the 50th anniversary of the couple. The board was greatly admired and appreciated.



From **Tamar Somasundaram**:

I made this Christmas tree out of old pine slats from a bed base. I found the pattern online and was helped throughout by Peter Ball. The pattern required brad nails in the front of the tree, but we decided to secure them in the back instead - as a novice, it would have been impossible for me to assemble it this way without Peter holding the pieces and Ian Chong advising. Don Buchanan chipped in by finding the hardwood for the star. It was fun spending time in the workshop in the lead up to Christmas, being around others working on their projects.

From **Martin Ralph**:

I recently finished my first project at the BDWWC workshop. It's a change table for my soon to be born baby girl. Using hardwood for the frame, and plywood for the shelves. The design uses only mortise and tenon joinery (plus a little glue), which was done on the milling drill press. The duck at the back was cut out with the scroll saw (thanks Bill for getting me started).

The shelves are laid on a rebate, which wasn't cut into but rather a separate piece was glued to the rails.

I plan to apply a hard wax oil finish using a brush and rag.



Best Wishes To those of our members, and their partners, who are unwell at present. We send warm regards and hope that you will be better soon.



The passing of one of **Bill Bradshaw's** favourite actors, last year, prompted Bill to make this walking stick in her memory. Here is a replica of the walking stick used by Maggie Smith, in the TV Series, Downton Abbey.

At the request of a member of the public, **Simon King** has repaired this chair which had the back broken in half.



A NOTE FROM RON BOLTON:

Following a visit from our City of Casey landlords, the committee has decided that, in accordance with public safety, the club should have a Fire Safety procedure in place. To that end we have obtained hard hats for the Fire Warden and a second Fire Warden.

The Fire Warden will be the key holder that opens on any given day, the second will be assigned by

the Fire Warden and should be a committee member or key holder.

The Fire Wardens only need to wear the hats during a fire or fire drill.

There will be fire drills from time to time in accordance with the fire-safety policy.



MACHINE SAFETY:

A nasty surprise awaited a member who planned to use the No 12 bandsaw recently. The machine had not been turned off by the last member who used it and was still running. Due to the general workshop noise, the sound of the bandsaw's motor could not be heard and the spinning of the blade was not easy to detect.

It is stating the obvious to say that this craft that we enjoy deals with extremely dangerous machinery but the reminder is necessary.

PLEASE Turn off a machine when you finish using it.

WAIT until it stops running before you walk away.

We don't want to send any of our members home in little pieces.

A PLEA FROM YOUR FAVOURITE LATHE: Please remove the locking pin on the lathe before you turn on the machine.

As a safety device, there is a locking pin behind the chuck to stop it from turning until you are ready for it. If the pin is not removed before the lathe is turned on, the machine's belt will spin against the stationary

chuck, thus causing the belt to wear through, as has been the case recently, putting the machine out of action and resulting in an expensive belt replacement.



Pictured left is the locking pin in locked position and at right, the way it should look before you turn on the lathe. .



THANKS TO RON BOLTON: At February's general meeting **Brian Crowe** expressed his thanks to Ron for the work he has done on the club's website, which has attracted some valuable attention as seen below.

DONATIONS TO THE CLUB: Berwick District Woodworkers has been on the receiving end of some generous donations.

We are grateful to Ziggy Kartalis from Simonds Catholic College who has presented the club with a sliding table saw and horizontal drill press. Ziggy learned of the club from our website, approved of what we do and decided that we would be the recipient of his gift.

Through a contact of **Peter Mason** and his wife, **Graeme Marshall** from Neerim, we have received a donation of a very large amount of kiln-dried hardwood. As mentioned in the President's Message, we are urged to use this wood, not only in personal projects but also, wherever possible, in place of pine, for toy making, so as to extend its availability for the toy program.

Many thanks to **Chris Drysdale** who made and donated a pen as a 'Thank You' gift for Graeme.

Following the sad passing of honorary member, **Joyce Hayes** we have received a collection of woodworking books and magazines. Many thanks to the Hayes family.

A NOTE FROM JOHN MCMAHON: This year's club exhibition of members work "Expo 2025" will be held on the weekend of Friday 11th July to Sunday 13th July. Like previous years, it will consist of 2 sections. The first is for club members' work that has not been exhibited before, and can be offered for sale or not, at the member's discretion. These items will be exhibited in the clubrooms. The second section is for pieces that members wish to sell, but can't be included in the exhibition section (e.g. they may have been exhibited in previous years). These items will be displayed in the workshop. Remember that this is an exhibition of woodwork that our members undertake, no matter what our skill levels are, or what our woodworking interest is. So all members are encouraged to get involved. After February, there are only 2 more General Meetings scheduled before the Expo, so the time will pass a lot more quickly than we expect. I encourage you all, if you are not already doing so, to start getting busy making something to exhibit.

Over the past couple of years, the number of individual members exhibiting work, and the number of pieces being displayed, have both been in decline, and if not for the number of pieces displayed by a few of our members, our exhibitions would not have been as successful as they were. The variety of work has also diminished, so again, I encourage you all to look more widely at the type of woodwork that can be produced. Some of our members have become more involved with pyrography and intarsia over the last couple of years, and it would be great to see more of this. There are lots of other types of woodwork that we could also see more of, such as scroll saw work other than kids' handouts, marquetry & inlay work, carving, walking sticks, spoons, models & miniature buildings, and so on. The toys, boxes, cutting boards, bowls & platters that we make are fabulous, but there are many other things that we could make to add extra interest to the Expo. So put your thinking caps on, get your imagination working, and get busy making.

Once again, we will be conducting a raffle and intend selling tickets at the farmers markets from April onwards. However, to comply with the regulations, we need to print the prizes and their value on the tickets. I'm appealing, therefore for members to offer a piece of their work as a prize. We need 5 prizes, and this needs to be finalized by the middle of March. Please let me know if you can help.

Our planning sub-committee will be meeting regularly over the next few months, and anyone interested in being a part of it is always most welcome. We have a few ideas about how to improve on last year's effort, and more information will be forthcoming in the next few weeks. The Expo has become an excellent way of increasing the awareness of our club in the community over the past 4 years, and we have benefited from this higher profile in a number of ways. Having had such successful exhibitions so far, it's also important to keep the standard up and continue to meet or exceed the expectations of the attendees. There will be lots of different tasks to be done at different times over the coming months leading up to the Expo, and members will be asked to get involved with these at the appropriate times. There will also be a period of time (shorter than last year) that the clubrooms and the workshop will have limited or no access while the Expo is in progress, and these will also be advised in due course. Cheers, **John**

MORE CLUB MATTERS: We have learned that the Function Room in the Old Cheese Factory grounds, in which our Gala Event is held every year, is to be renovated and unavailable for us to use in November. Therefore, our Gala Event has been brought forward to October 24th to 27th of October 2025.

NEW MEMBER: This month we welcome **Christine King**. Christine seems to be settling in very well but it's good to look out for our newcomers in case they're feeling a bit lost.

VMSA NEWS: At the recent meeting of the Victorian Men's Shed Association which was held in early February at Akoonah Park, **Don Buchanan** saw a presentation on Living with Dementia, which encouraged the public to consider joining a free 12-week program and then another reminding people of the importance of an up-to-date Will. If you are interested in either of these programs you could ask Don for details.

You can check on the Victorian Men's Shed Association with the following link.
<https://www.vmsa.org.au/news2/>

Chris Drysdale has sent me the latest copy of Shoulder to Shoulder, which is a newsletter put out by UK Men's Shed's Association. It's an interesting read. You can find it at the following link, if you'd like to see it.
[Newsletter Archive | Men's Sheds Association | UKMSMA \(menssheds.org.uk\)](#)

FEBRUARY SHOW & TELL



Shapes you can make:

| | | | | | |
|------------|--------------------|----------|-----------------|---------------|-------------|
| The 'T' | Fat T | Italic T | Teezer | Propeller | Y Pentomino |
| | | | | | |
| Calders | Arrow | Ramp | Happy Baby | Bowl | Stairs |
| | | | | | |
| 7 | Y | Z | Lefty Z | Cane | Funiculaire |
| | | | | | |
| Halberd | Harpoon | Sword | Tomahawk | Villa | Factory |
| | | | | | |
| Boomerang | Hockey stick | Golf bag | Medium Golf bag | Tall Golf bag | Putter |
| | | | | | |
| Hand plane | Adjustable Spanner | Hammer | Anchor | Paperweight | Mounted L |
| | | | | | |

Chris Drysdale has made this 'T' puzzle. The challenge is to use the parts to make the various shapes depicted in the accompanying leaflet. Chris will include 20 of the puzzles in the Gala Day toys.

Len Preece made the weather stations below, using blackwood.



Michael Berry made the model B-double fuel haul truck below from various timbers and plastic, using Laser cutting, 3D printing and some CNC machine work. It has a fully operational air-horn which plays the Collingwood Football Club theme song.



The cup at right is by **John Damon**, with the plug that he used to aid in turning the base. The wood is oak.





The 1927 Mercedes Benz car in various woods plus a few toothpicks is by **Brian Crowe**.

The textured vase below is by **John McMahon**. The wood is jacaranda.



The frog intarsia made from merbau and English beech, is by **Mark Bellis**.

Below is a Dragon Mastermind game made from red gum by **Leah Bolton**. Leah also made the hand carved bowl below from a large (about 500mm) ironbark burl.



Next to the bowl is a game box also made by **Leah Bolton** from a mixture of timbers. The box holds eight different games.



BERWICK SHOW WEEKEND: Tamar Somasundaram has kindly written a report on the club's time at the Berwick Show Thanks, Tamar. Here's what Tamar had to say.

Saturday was a very hot day and the quieter of the two. The well-known skin horse (Betelgeuse) from the workshop sold, along with a couple of spinning tops. Simon turned two bowls on the lathe while Christine, Kay, John and Alexander tended to the public. The horses, Bella and Foal, were used and enjoyed. Thanks to all who came to help on this hot, sunny day.

On Sunday, tops were again very popular. Carol turned four pens on the lathe, while Don made a number of animal cutouts which Ron, Peter, John and Len sanded down, ready to be pyrographed by Julie and Don for kids. Thanks also to Kay Zimmerman for all her work preparing the cut outs, beforehand, that have been handed out over this weekend.



The BOG award was unanimously awarded to Don Buchanan who worked hard through both days, staying cheerful and having his face painted as a tiger for the general morale of all.

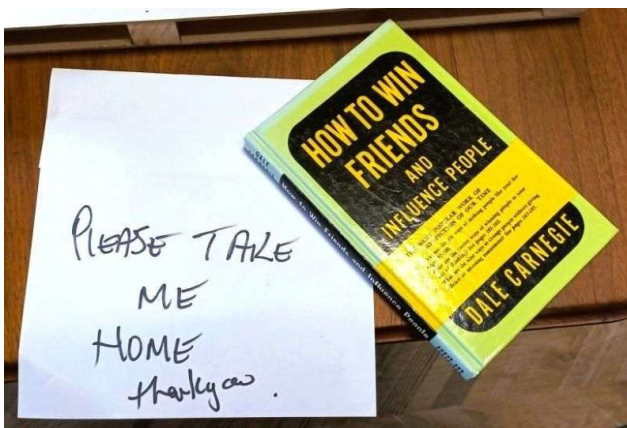
On the Facebook page of Jason Wood MP, I found this photo at left, taken when Jason, accompanied by Zahid Safi, Liberal candidate for Buce, visited the club's display at the Berwick Show. I'm sure Jason won't mind me showing it to you. Seen with Zahid and Jason are, from left, Christine King, John Damon, Simon King, Don Buchanan, and Kay Zimmerman.



Snapped by Julie Robinson, that's Don at right, wearing his tiger disguise and Carol Goddard at left, working on the lathe to produce her pens.

Although woodwork can be a serious business there is always time for some light-hearted fun. In just such a moment, Margaret Clayton took the photo below, of a *hammer head-shark* and a newly discovered *box-head shark*, alias Ian Deans and Ron Bolton.

Seen on the library table recently was the book below left, with the accompanying note. Is somebody trying to tell us something?





LOOKING BACK: Just a reminder of a pleasant afternoon when club members gathered to enjoy the club's Welcome-Back barbeque held in the clubroom on January 15th.

MANY THANKS for the continued support of our sponsors.



JUST A THOUGHT: When one door closes and another opens, your house could be haunted.

EVER WONDER ...

Why you never see the headline 'Psychic Wins Lottery'?

Why is 'abbreviated' such a long word?

Why is it that Doctors call what they do 'practice'?

Why is lemon juice made with artificial flavour, and dishwashing liquid made with real lemons?

Why is the time of day with the slowest traffic called the rush hour?

Why isn't there mouse-flavoured cat food?

Why didn't Noah swat those two mosquitoes?

Why do they sterilize the needle for lethal injections?

You know that indestructible black box that is used on airplanes? Why don't they make the whole plane out of that stuff?!

Why don't sheep shrink when it rains?

Why are they called apartments when they are all stuck together?

If con is the opposite of Pro, is Congress the opposite of progress?

If flying is so safe, why do they call the airport the terminal?

That's just about all for now. Many thanks, once again to **Carol Goddard** for her help with proof-reading this newsletter. Until next time, stay safe and stay well.