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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 2026 -- *Happy New Year to All.*

DATES TO REMEMBER Committee Meeting – Wednesday 11th February - 1:00pm in clubroom. **General Meeting** - Wednesday 18th February 2026 - 1:00pm in clubroom. As always it will be preceded by a free BBQ lunch at 12 noon. Hope to see you there. **Berwick Show** – 21st & 22nd February. Volunteers needed to run the club's stall.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.



I would like to wish everyone a happy new year and hope it is a successful one for all our members.

It is great to see a good start already to our toys for this year and a couple of fund-raising projects under way or completed.

Unfortunately, I have to raise a couple of issues, the first being an introduction course on using resin. First thank you to **Diane Housiaux** for running this course at her own expense. The list was for 10 people. People cannot just continue to add names particularly if you are not financial and therefore not entitled to even be there. This shows no respect, in particular, to the person running the course or how much it might cost her.

The second issue is the Welcome Back Dinner, which I think was a big success, but people seem to think that putting their names on the list for the dinner meant nothing. It was explained that we were catering for this event, which means after the cut-off date you are catered for. This cost the club money. We cannot continue to keep fees low and subsidise people with no regard for the club's revenue. In the future you will not be included if payment is not made before the cut-off date.

May I thank the committee for the first 6 months work that they have done, but remind our members that being on the committee does not mean you have to do every task that comes up. So please help out where you can.

Not such a bright report to start the year, so hopefully it brightens up from here
Regards **Ian Deans**.

Carol Goddard to the rescue. It was the hottest day for about 20 years on Wednesday, January 7th, and the Club Committee Meeting was due that afternoon. But the show must go on and the club committee took the heat in their stride and got on with the job. **Carol Goddard** made the task more pleasant when she presented the members with an icy-pole treat each. A lovely thought Carol. Thanks, **Don Buchanan** for the photo.



CLUB INFORMATION

MEETINGS:

COMMITTEE

Wednesday 11th February 1:00pm

GENERAL

Wednesday 18th February 1:00pm

MARKETS – Volunteers needed

Saturday 14th February - 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	Ian Deans	0403 419 774
Vice President	Ron Bolton	0413 152 391
Secretary	Don Buchanan	0431 313 998 email: bdwwsec@outlook.com
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 Dean & 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	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

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.



SHOW & TELL for December. Due to the pre-Christmas deadline clashing with our December General meeting it was necessary to hold the show and tell over until January. Here are the items that our members displayed.



Chris Drysdale showed us his pens with inlaid designs of an elephant and a giraffe in mixed wood.

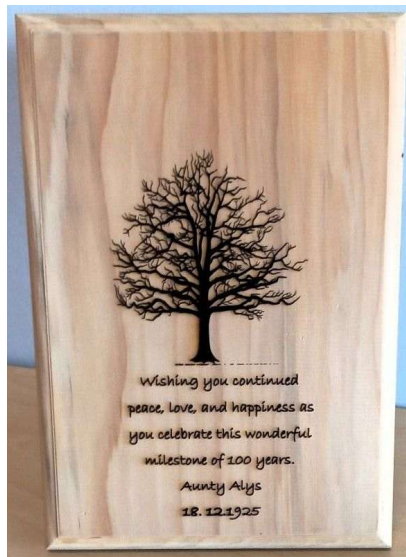
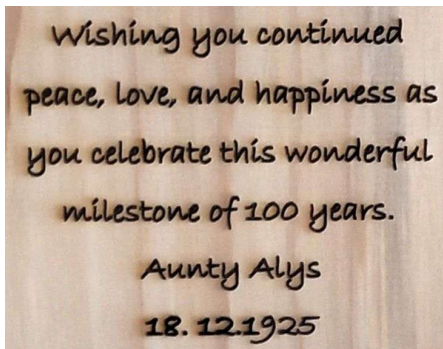


Lance Baker showed us the coffee table he made from recycled Tasmanian blackwood. The legs were laminated and joined with bridal joints, not mortise and tenon.

Paul Parer's natural edge bowl is blackwood, twice turned, before and after drying.



Don Buchanan's plaques are birthday gifts, the sunflower for a 70th birthday, the tree of life is for a 100th birthday celebration. A close-up of the inscription is shown below.



Aaron Zong showed us his collection of pens, some made from broken garden tools.

Another took him 6 hours to make. The pen at left is actually a pocket size perfume container with a felt tip applicator.



BDWWC Celebrating 40 Years 1986 - 2026

The first social function of our fortieth anniversary year was held on the evening of 14th January when a good crowd of members and guests gathered for our Welcome Back Dinner. It gave everyone an opportunity to reflect on how much the club has grown since ten keen woodworkers convened the first meeting way back in 1986. At that stage, they met at each other's homes while they set about finding a suitable location for a club workshop and acquiring the tools and equipment they would need. Thanks to their energy and vision, the organisation has grown into one of the best resourced woodworking clubs in Australia, well known for our contributions to the community and for our large, diverse and enthusiastic membership.

To mark the occasion, the club hired a gas-fired rotisserie and **David Macgregor** and **Ian Deans**, under the watchful eye of **Don Buchanan**, prepared a truly memorable beef spit roast. Chicken was also available for those who preferred it, and everything was complemented by a beautiful range of salads and baguettes, with BYO drinks. The spit roast was a departure from the traditional BBQ but proved to be very successful.



Members and guests enjoying the convivial atmosphere of the Fortieth Anniversary Welcome Back Dinner.

Thank you to the members who volunteered their time to cater and prepare the clubhouse, and to all those who came along and made the evening a resounding success. It has set a high benchmark for future social events at the club. From **Peter Ball**.

Alexander Drysdale showed me the nest of bowls he has turned. The work has involved a lot of sanding and Alexander would like to share the method that he has found to be very successful. Finding a sanding block to be of no help on such curved shapes, and the friction of hand sanding uncomfortably hot, burning his fingers, Alexander employed a thick, car-washing sponge. The sponge moulds itself and the sandpaper to the bowl's curve and provides a comfortable grip to protect his fingers. A win situation all round. (oops, no pun intended)





A MARK OF GRATITUDE. Those members who attend morning tea on Tuesday mornings will know the pleasure of enjoying the baked goodies regularly sent along with **Brian Crowe**, by **Marilyn Crowe**. In recognition of Marilyn's continued generosity, the club's committee presented her with a bouquet of flowers (accepted in her absence by Brian) A bouquet was also presented to **Elsie Hoare** with thanks for her many years of producing the newsletter.



A NOTE FROM BERWICK ARTISTS SOCIETY.

A big thank you from **Berwick Artists Society** to Berwick Woodworker, **Simon King**, for the amazing framework he made for a mural. Berwick Woodwork Club, member **Rosemary Duncan** who is also the Secretary for Berwick Artists Society, was floundering miserably as she tried to follow Simon's instructions to build the frame. Simon generously took over the project and handed Rosemary his paint brush instead. The frame is 3 metres by 1.5 metres and is a representation of a window frame. The mural can be seen on the outside wall of The Berwick Inn.



AROUND THE WORKSHOP:

Chariots Galore. Some of the 100 Hindu chariots mentioned in the December newsletter, ready for the children to paint. That's **David Macgregor** whose face we can't see, while **Margaret Clayton, Ian Deans** and **Simon King** hold a conversation in the background.



Below, **Peter Angwin** snapped **Wayne Lucas** working on yet another of the castles he makes for Gala Day.



When things get a little quiet around the clubroom we can always count on **Colin Ellard** to liven them up a bit. Colin's new T-shirt did the trick, drawing a few smiles when he wore it recently.

New members this month are:
Liz Plail, Elias Haddad, Brent Madhavan, Ryan Lim, Jacob Maslen, Pradip Jain and Joy Pyle.
We welcome you all and hope you are enjoying your time with us.





Anyone seeing **Katerina Zorin** working on her collection of pallet wood lately, might have wondered what she was up to. Here is the answer; Katerina has used the wood to make this shelf storage for her paint cans. Left over



scraps have become candle holders and the side pieces of a tool box. The curved end pieces were obtained from the club's supply of offcuts.



Two large projects taking place in the workshop by **Peter Ball** and **Simon King**, prompted me to ask Peter what they are all about. Here is what Peter told me.

“We are making five planter boxes for Lynbrook Community Centre, which is a facility run by Casey Council. We have made two others in the past which they used to run some pilot programs on gardening with various groups. When they had a formula for success, the council funded them to get five more boxes to roll their programs out. Bunnings at Clyde North helped with sourcing the materials and the club has provided the volunteer labour to make the boxes. We are just waiting on the last few components to be supplied by Bunnings so we can finish them off and deliver them.”



Simon is making two large tables to replace the mish-mash of smaller tables and benches that run along the southern wall inside the clubhouse. They will bring order to the area that is used for the laser engravers and 3D printers. Simon tossed around several design ideas before settling on the final plans. Once again, Bunnings at Clyde North assisted us with material.”



Thanks, **Peter Angwin**, for the photos.



Best Wishes to those of our members who can't be with us at present, either due to their own ill health or that of a partner . We miss you and hope that you will be feeling better soon.



Brian & Esther Roberts have found a way to beat our stifling heat, visiting ten different countries in the Northern Hemisphere over the past few weeks. No doubt they'll find life a little mundane when they return soon. They've pretty much covered half the world since December 9th. Here's what Brian says,

"Well, our amazing trip is coming to an end. Melbourne to Munich, Nuremberg, Amsterdam, Edinburgh, Loch Ness, Iceland. London. Paris finally Singapore we have seen so much, experienced different cultures & food, meeting amazing people, including family and some friends that I met on fb, 54000 air miles, 7 flights and the Eurostar, these memories we will treasure forever."

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



A Smile or Two:

Hospital regulations require a wheel chair for patients being discharged. However, one young student nurse, found an elderly gentleman already dressed and sitting on the bed with a suitcase at his feet, who insisted he didn't need any help to leave the hospital. After a chat about rules being rules, he reluctantly let the nurse wheel him to the elevator.

On the way down the young nurse asked him if his wife was meeting him. "I don't know," he said. "She's still upstairs in the bathroom changing out of her hospital gown."

Some thoughts from Michael Berry:

Just once, I want a username and password prompt to say to me - "Close enough"

Never laugh at your spouse's choices. You are one of them.

Be honest, if people heard what you are thinking half of the time, you would either be in jail or a mental hospital.

The best thing about the good old days was that I wasn't good and I wasn't old.

That's all for now. Until next time I hope you keep well and keep safe. Many thanks, once again, to **Carol Goddard** for help with proof-reading this newsletter.



"Dad, watch me juggle!"