

Tele (club) 9702 1814 Club email [bdwwcsec@outlook.com](mailto:bdwwcsec@outlook.com)

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 June 2017

**DATES TO REMEMBER:** Committee Meeting - 3rd July, 1.00 pm in the Clubroom. Monthly Meeting - 6th July, 7.30 pm in the Clubroom.

**REMINDER : CLUB MEMBERSHIP IS DUE ON 1ST JULY, 2017.**

*We are not insured unless we are paid up members.*

**FUNCTIONS:** Our next club luncheon is coming up on August 10th. Note **change of venue to Club Officer, 3 Niki Place Officer.** (Just off Cardinia Road) which has an excellent menu and very pleasant surroundings. We have been asked to book by the end of **July**, so please look out for the list that will be on the clubroom table and add your name there if you would like to join us.

#### **JUNE MONTHLY MEETING.**

As our speaker this month, we were visited by **Lindsay Oates, President** of the **Victorian Men's Shed Association.**

Although Berwick District Woodworkers is not a Men's Shed, we do belong to the Association and Lindsay came to tell us a little about the group and its reasons for separating from the *Australian Men's Shed Association.*

**VMSA** is funded by and has strong links with the State Government. The Association has its 10th year celebration coming up.

From Lindsay we learned that Victoria has the greatest number of Sheds, in excess of 325 at the beginning of 2017, some of which run programs for women too.

Mental health as well as physical health is important to the association and members are encouraged to sit around and talk, over a cup of coffee or tea, if that's all they want to do. There is a diversity of activities available which include watching films, reading books, while on the creative side there is woodwork and blacksmithing, though not all clubs run the latter programs.



#### **A DEPARTING GIFT FROM BILL MCKEE.**

Long serving club member **Billy McKee** has decided to return to his home country of Scotland. Clearing out his workshop, Bill has given the club his collection of bowl blanks. The wood is available to any club member for a donation to the club. **Many thanks Bill.**

During the meeting, **Rick Hoare** stood to say a few words of farewell to Bill who was one of the team of members who helped to build the clubroom in 1997.

**GOODBYE AND BEST WISHES, BILL.**

**CLUB INFORMATION:**

**MEETINGS:**

**COMMITTEE**

3rd July

**GENERAL**

6th July

**SPEAKERS ETC**

Instructional videos

**FARMERS**

**MARKET**

8th July (BDWC)

22nd July - (Rotary)

**Committee of Management:**

**Contact Details**

**Name**

**Phone**

President Len Preece 59405564  
 Vice President Elsie Hoare 9707 4608  
 Secretary Richard Gething 9704 5417  
 email: bdwwcsec@outlook.com  
 Treasurer Peter Angwin 5941 1272

**Committee**

Rick Hoare 9707 4608  
 John Damon 0400 888 912  
 Martin Van Diemen 9707 5305  
 Brian Crowe 9702 2041  
 Ken Humphries 9702 0854  
 Ken Whitefield 9704 9701

Monthly meeting speaker – *Ken Humphries*

Functions Co-ordinator - *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 – *Len Preece & Brian Crowe*

Raffle Coordinator – *Len Preece*

Farmers Market Coordinator – *Martin Van Diemen*

Special interest group coordinators – *Depends on group*

Librarian – *Keith Towe*

Screws – *MartinVan Diemen*

Paint – *George Young*

Timber coordinator – *Martin Van Diemen*

Web/Web master – *Jack Croucher*

Mens' Shed coordinator - *Gary King*

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](mailto:ricels@bigpond.com) by hand, or by phone to the editor by the 15<sup>th</sup> 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.

**Workshops & Meetings:**

<b>Weekly</b>	<b>Hours</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Leader</b>
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 thanks **Judith Graley MP** State Member for Narre Warren South, and her staff for their continued 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

Good to see some of the members that have been on the unwell list back at the Club. It was good to see **Stewart Moyes, John Fowler** and **Stan Firmin** in the club recently. **Dave Norman** is taking time to recover from a bout of flu and unfortunately **Joe Klienekort** is still not in the best of health. We wish them both all the best.

There has been no further news on the new workshop since my last report, but I will keep everybody up to date when we hear more news.

We have been asked by the Officer Specialist School for some more Kits for Kids. They have approximately 150 students for us this year. The dates we will be required are 15, 16 & 17 August. We will be making Paper Towel Holders - not so difficult for the students. We will need some help in preparing the kits; if you can help please see Len Preece.

We have also been asked by the City Of Casey for some items to be used for presents, I have arranged for two of these to be done and we have also been asked if we could do approx 30 pens in wooden boxes with the Casey Logo engraved on them, we are currently awaiting confirmation of these from Casey.

Richard has sent an email to all members asking for options on meeting times for the Club, as at the last 2 meeting we have not been able to get a quorum. **The options are, to have the meetings in the afternoon, only during winter, or all the time, or do we stay with the evening meetings?**

Please let us know your options or suggestions. They will be much appreciated.

The last Farmers' Market was a great success again, with much thanks to Geoff Rankin and our great band of members who turn up early morning and help set up. It's great to see so many involved; it makes the job a lot easier and more pleasant.

I must also congratulate **Russell Owen** on winning the **Juan Carlos Loyola OAM Award** for Long Standing Community Service, Well done Russell from all the members.

**REMINDER**, members are requested not to park in the Elm Drive unless they have a disabled sticker or have a lot of material to be unloaded, after which they can then move the car to the parking area at the end of the drive. The OCF now have a lot of disabled groups using the facilities and this area is for them to park.

Len Preece - President

### JUNE SHOW & TELL:



Keith Towe made the lidded box shown at left. The wood is walnut with a spalted, mystery inset. The blackwood, lidded box below left is also by Keith. At right are two bowls made by



Richard Gething using the Clyde Road oak. The bowls are a donation from the club to the Narre Warren North Uniting Church.



Ian Chong made the zebra wood



handle for the knife above. The blade was forged by Keith Towe, from an antique chisel.

Cecil King used some of the Clyde Road Elm to turn the platter at left. The platter is to be a gift for Cecil's friend in Shanghai, China.

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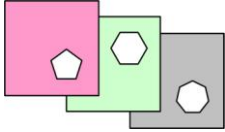
### WOULD THE LAST ONE OUT TURN OFF THE LIGHTS.

I know it's a corny line from an old joke, but in this case it's an important reminder to those members locking up the clubroom for the day. Please check to see that everything is turned off, especially the air conditioner and the lights.

**CONDOLENCES to JAN VEENSTRA.** Members were saddened, recently, to hear of the passing of **Dulcie Veenstra**, wife of long serving club member, **Jan Veenstra**. We send our best wishes to Jan and his family at this sad time.

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**SAFETY CORNER: by Bill Munt.**



**FUNGUS IN WOOD:** This article was lifted “as published” from the CFA web site. It should interest every wood turner and anyone who regularly processes wood. Note the relevance to Redgum, Bluegum and Blackwood; timbers that woodturners love to use for fancy turned articles. **TAKE NOTE OF THE SYMPTOMS, tell your doctor you are often exposed to wood dust and keep a good dust mask (sealed in a plastic sandwich bag) in the boot of your vehicle at all times.**

**CFA VOLUNTEER WARNS OF FUNGUS IN FIREWOOD.**



Glenaladale CFA volunteer John Hine was faced with a battle last year, one he never saw coming. This time last year John was cutting up the annual supply of Redgum wood on his farm in Woodglen. John had no idea he was inhaling a small fungus that lives in some timbers. The substance is in form of a white powder that when disturbed becomes airborne. John said a few weeks after cutting the firewood he began to feel sick.

“I started experiencing symptoms such as muscle aches, fever, sweating and headaches so severe no amount of Nurofen or Panadol could help me,” said John.

Initially it was thought that John had lung cancer as chest X-rays and CT scans revealed a shadow on the lungs.

“I was referred to the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre in Melbourne for further scans and a bed was set aside for immediate transfer to the Royal Melbourne Hospital.

“It was soon discovered that in fact I didn’t have cancer but a rare fungus infection which has spread from my lungs into spinal fluid and into the brain.

The rare fungal infection is called Cryptococcal Fungus. The illness is very uncommon and on average 6 to 10 Victorians are diagnosed with infection every year.

“An intense medical treatment plan was administered including daily intravenous therapy of anti-fungal fluid by a team of specialist doctors and nurses.

“The treatment really flattened me, after my release I returned weeks later. It’s been a really long journey which all started exactly 12 months ago. It’s not completely gone yet, fingers crossed I can beat this.

The strain of fungus John inhaled is most commonly found in Redgum, but other strains exist in other timbers including Blue gum, and Blackwoods.

John shares his story so that others may learn. John said simple precautionary steps could have been taken like wearing a face mask.

“Our family and friends keep a pack of respirators on hand now; I hope I can educate others about the risk.

“I’m a self-employed farmer and CFA volunteer who drives the fire truck. I never even knew of Cryptococcal Fungus until I caught this illness.

“I just want to thank my family and my wife Carmel who has been by my side and seen me through ups and downs.

“Also a huge thanks to Glenaladale Brigade volunteers especially Captain Rick and Secretary Vicki O’Haire.”

Glenaladale Brigade is looking for volunteers, and more tanker drivers like John. If you are thinking of becoming a CFA member, call 1800 232 636 or email us at [volrecruit@cfa.vic.gov.au](mailto:volrecruit@cfa.vic.gov.au)



**OCTOBER FISHING TRIP.** Although he is leaving us in a few weeks, for newer pastures in Yarrawonga, **Gary King** is still planning to hold a club fishing trip in October. This time Gary is planning to go after Schnapper. More details as they come to hand.

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As Len Preece has mentioned in his report, the following note has been sent out to those of our members who have email. For the benefit of members who do not receive their mail electronically, I am including it here.

*Dear Member.*

*The number of members attending our monthly meetings has been dropping off of recently. We did not achieve a quorum at the last two meetings.*

*There was a suggestion made that we move the monthly meeting to afternoons as it may be easier for members.*

*Suitable afternoons would be Mondays, Wednesdays or Fridays. The committee is seeking your opinion to help make a decision.*

*\* Would moving the monthly meeting to an afternoon make it easier for you to attend?*

*\* Which afternoon would suit you? Monday, Wednesday or Friday.*

*\* If the meeting is changed to an afternoon would we change for the whole year or just during the colder months?*

*Thank you. - Richard Gething - Secretary, - Berwick District Woodworkers Club Inc.*

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**SPECIAL AWARD.**

Club member **Russell Owen** has been awarded the **2017 Juan Carlos Loyola OAM** Award for longstanding community service. Quoting Russell,

*"I am very honoured to have being nominated for this award, I just believe we should give back to people in the community, I am over the moon."*

Over the years Russell has assisted at the Narre Warren **Mechanics Hall, Berwick District Woodworkers Club, National Trust Park shop, Provenance Artists Casey art shows, Fountain College Anzac services, and Maramba Primary School crossing.**

Pictured is Russell being presented with his award by **Juan Carlos Loyola OAM**, with **Luke Donellan MP.**

Congratulations to Russell for this well-deserved award.

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**A GOOD IDEA:** Following Pat Mahoney's suggestion at the monthly meeting, one of our toys has been displayed at the Farmers' Market, at each entrance, to allow patrons to see how we use their entrance donation.

The report is that the toys have attracted satisfying interest, and will continue to be displayed in future.



**BOB'S BOXES.** Still in box-making mode, Bob McArthur has followed his recent work on the market collection boxes. This time, at the request of Jason Wood, Federal Member for Latrobe, Bob has made some wine presentation boxes.

**JACQUI'S HORSE.** Another busy member is Jacqui Saddington. Gary King snapped this photo as Jacqui worked on the rocking horse she is making.



### **ON THE ROAD...IF YOU FEEL THREATENED. - by Victoria Police.**

Road rage can be a problem we all face when driving. Follow these basic steps in the event you come under threat.

- Remain in your car at all times
- Obtain the registration number and report the incident to police
- If you're in fear, call Triple Zero (000)
- If you are being followed, do not go home
- Do not turn off and drive into unfamiliar areas
- Drive to a police station or service station where you can get help and attract attention.

#### **Berwick District Woodworkers Club.**

#### **Minutes Informal Monthly Meeting 1<sup>st</sup> June, 2017.**

#### **Meeting commenced 7.40 pm.**

**Welcome to Members** President Len Preece welcomed 15 members and guest Lindsay Oates from The Victorian Men's Shed Association. As this is below a quorum (20% of membership) the formal monthly meeting will be adjourned until next month and tonight's meeting will be an informal information night.

**Apologies.** Ken Whitefield, Ken Humphries, Graham Rogers, Ken D. Barnes.

#### **Correspondence.**

- Nil.

#### **President's Report.**

- The cleaning up around the workshop has improved although some areas still need to be watched.
- Our new workshop is underway. Survey and soil tests are complete. The visit from the architects went well. We are getting good cooperation and have visited the Knox wood club with them.
- Gary is looking to arrange another fishing trip in October. A list will be put on the tables.
- We must keep our driving speed low in the OCF area.
- When we leave the club and lock up we must check all appliances have been switched off.
- We have arranged for Kits for Kids sessions to be held at Officer Specialist School from 15 to 17<sup>th</sup> August. Len Preece needs help in preparing the kits.

- We have many bowl blanks donated by Billy McKee. They will be sold in the club for up to \$5 per blank. Thanks to Billy for the donation.
- The Australian Woodturning Exhibition will be held from the 16<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> of June.

**Treasurer's Report.**

- As attached.
- The income from the Farmers' Market has been increasing steadily.
- We have 104 financial members.
- Membership fees for next financial year are due on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2017.
- We have moved part of our Trading Account money to a fixed term deposit till the end of 2017.

**Functions and Demonstrations.**

- We are checking different locations for our next dinner in August.

**Raffle.**

- \_Going well.
- Tickets to be arranged.

**General Business**

- We are putting signs and photos on our collection boxes for the Farmers' Market. We will also put a toy on the tables.
- Thanks and best wishes to Billy McKee for his shift to Scotland.

**Newsletter.**

- All going well and thanks to Elsie Hoare.

**Show and Tell.** \_By Rick Hoare.

**Door prize.** Won by John Membry.

**Meeting Closed 8.00 pm.**

**Next Monthly 6<sup>th</sup> July, 2017.**

**Len Preece. President.**

**Richard Gething. Secretary.**

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**A FEW THOUGHTS TO PONDER**

Why can't life's problems hit us when we're 18 and know everything?

A clear conscience is the sign of a fuzzy memory.

You do not need a parachute to skydive unless you want to do it again.

Money can't buy happiness, but it sure makes misery easier to live with.

You're never too old to learn something stupid.

If at first you don't succeed, you're running about average.

*That's all for now, until next time.*

