



# WOODCRAFT MATTERS

THE NEWSLETTER OF WOODCRAFT MANNINGHAM

JANUARY 2024

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Happy new year to all the woodworkers of Woodcraft Manningham.

Last year finished with a successful luncheon at the Templestowe Hotel in December. Always great to speak to members that I don't normally see. Show & Tell was a success, good to see the projects of the year. (Thanks Bill Wood for organising the event).

Yen Ip from the Friday morning carvers is leaving for Canberra to be closer to his son, you will see a few of his creations around the club including a Bruce Hensell laser-cut picture. Yen we wish you well in Canberra. I hope you can continue to find more free timber.

Sad news of Richard Yates passing. Many knew Richard from Bacchus Marsh carving weekend. Our thoughts to Richard's wife Karen. I did a few courses with Richard, he had such an eye for the greater dimensions of a carving and depicting features with individual ideas using texture.

### Australia day

There will be no bird box making with the kids as there is no festival on this year.

### Warrandyte festival

Saturday 20 April. We will continue to make bird boxes with the kids and be selling woodwork items.

If you can make a few items eg. Bowls, carvings, boxes, toys that can be sold, that would be great too.

*John Paine*

## UNTIDY IS UNSAFE

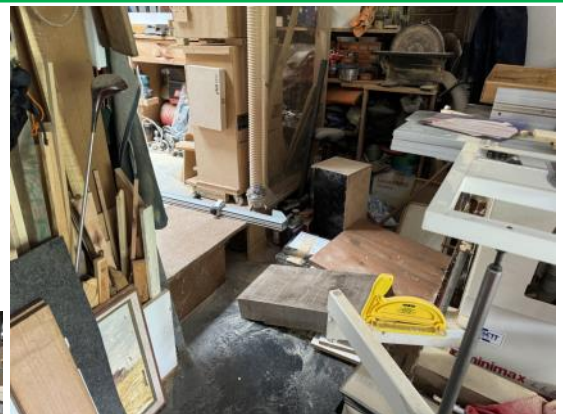
Let's talk about trip hazards and Safety in the club.

Do you have a tidy walkway?

Well here is a picture of my workshop at the moment, so it is time for me to take note. Of course none of you have a mess like this!!

Maybe it is staged! Maybe it is not!!

*John Paine*



X



## Woodcraft Manningham

[www.woodcraft-manningham.org.au](http://www.woodcraft-manningham.org.au)

Opposite 8 Anderson St, Templestowe  
Behind the Manningham/Templestowe Leisure Centre  
Clubroom Phone 9846 8148

**President:** John Paine 0411 451 234

**Treasurer** Bill Wood 0403 329 577

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Members' contributions to the Newsletter are always welcome. Please note that contributors are responsible for the accuracy of any information they send in for publication. The Editor takes no responsibility for correcting spelling and punctuation errors.

*Our clubhouse was once Templestowe Primary School, originally built in 1874. It is situated on the lands of the Wurundjeri people and we wish to acknowledge them as traditional owners. We pay our respects to their Elders, past, present and emerging.*

Front Page logo image: Valerie Forbes, 2016



### Towel Rack by Allan Way

Base is laminated pine. Top half and hanging pegs are KD hardwood. Bottom section is from an old dining-room table leg re-shaped and turned.

## CLUB ROOM EMERGENCY RESPONSE

**IF AN AMBULANCE IS CALLED TO THE CLUB ROOMS, QUOTE THIS LOCATION:**

**OPPOSITE 8 ANDERSON ST, TEMPLESTOWE, BEHIND THE MANNINGHAM/TEMPLESTOWE LEISURE CENTRE.**

**MAKE SURE SOMEONE IS WAITING AT THE STREET TO GUIDE THE AMBULANCE IN, AS THEY MAY MISS THE ENTRANCE. (These directions are also posted above the phone in the foyer of the club rooms)**

## Vale Richard Yates

Richard passed away on Saturday 12/1/24 after a long period of ill health

Richard was born in Wyoming USA in 1965 and came to Australia in 2002. He was diagnosed with Leukemia many years ago, and was given a reprieve after a bone marrow transplant.

He went from carving as a hobby, to take up professional carving. If you haven't seen his amazing work have a look at his website at [www.richardyatessculptor.com](http://www.richardyatessculptor.com) before it's too late.

Richard came into contact with Woodcraft Manning in 2007. At Richard's first Carve-in he arrived with a 6 x 4 trailer in tow. On the trailer was a 2 meter-something carving he had brought for show and tell. The carving was of a stylised cricketer. Richard was commissioned to carve the cricketer for Cricket Willow tourist attraction outside Hepburn Springs.

That first year Richard joined Rod Jones's mechanical carvers, making a life size mask of the human face. Rod found it a lot easier telling Richard what to do than Richard found doing what Rod was telling him. The problem was with the nose. The nose on Richard's carving was flat, like he had been hit across the face with a cricket bat. Rod kept pushing Richard saying get the forehead back and then the nose will come out. Rod prevailed and Richard ended up with a very respectable mask out of Red Gum. After the first Carve-in Richard joined Woodcraft Manningham. Richard soon became a very competent wood carver.

We were very fortunate to have Richard lead groups with Karen in Modelling at our Carve-in at Bacchus Marsh in 2012 and 2014. In 2013 he offered Power Carving. Because of pressure of work he could not participate again until 2018 when he taught Relief Carving with power tools. Covid ended his participation in 2020. Being in Richard's class was an experience greatly sought after and enjoyed by all.

Richard's five sculptures depicting Chewton's history and people are greatly admired by those who live or have travelled through Chewton. He received many awards:

- 2011 Castlemaine Winner Tonks Sculpture Award.
- 2012 Royal Melbourne Show 2nd Prize Sculpture Freeform
- 2012 Sutton Grange Art Show. Highly Commended Sculpture
- 2012 Royal Melbourne Show. 1st Prize Woodcarving
- 2012 Castlemaine Rotary Art Show. Winner Best 3 Dimensional Art Work
- 2014/15 Castlemaine Rotary Art Show. Winner Best 3 Dimensional Art Work
- 2014 World Wood Day, Fujian Province, China Sponsored Invitation to Exhibit and Demonstrate
- 2017 Appointed Official Woodcarver of the Royal Australian Navy

Richard enjoyed fossicking for gold. He was a humble man with a deep belief in God. His work was an inspiration to all, and he will be sadly missed.

*Compiled by various Manningham Woodcraft Carvers*





## CARVINGS AT NSW STATE LIBRARY

The NSW State Library contains the Shakespeare Room, which was opened in 1943. The woodwork, by woodcarver Charles Shoreline, used Tasmanian oak and blackwood. Shakespeare's coat of arms is outside the room.



Inside the room above the entrance is the coat of arms of Queen Elizabeth 1



From  
**Bob Edwards**

Surrounding the door are two chip carved and beaded pillars.



Carved linenfold are also featured in the room.



## A SELECTION OF WOOD PORN

[The Struggles of Traditional Trades](#)

## February Carving Sunday 25 February 2024 9:00 am to 4:00 pm

One day of carving at the club rooms, following on from the success of the September Carve-In.

**Strictly no machine use** Prepare before, bring smaller projects and let's just get together to have a great day

We can fit 20 – 25 carvers into the place! Program: Carving, Show & tell, Pizza lunch

It may be squeezey to all fit in but those who book first will have first choice of carving position on the day. With no machine use we can use all of the machine area and also the sign-in/storage room.

Cost of \$10.00 paid on the day includes lunch & morning tea

To book email [johnpaine137@gmail.com](mailto:johnpaine137@gmail.com)

*John Paine & Mark Heland*

# SAFETY ALERT

## “Sawstop” Table Saw Incidents

### INCIDENT

In the last 5 months, we have had 2 incidents involving the “Sawstop” table saw.

In both instances, the Member's fingers came into contact with the blade while in power down mode activating the safety mechanism with the blade hitting into the safety brake.

In the first event, the timber was being ripped vertically. The second event involved cutting timber in the crosscut sled. In both events the top safety guard was removed.

Both injuries sustained very minor finger injuries requiring only a Band aid.



### Lessons

- **Table saw**
  - Only remove the top safety guard to use the riving knife when absolutely necessary (i.e. when trenching where the blade does not cut the whole depth of the timber, using the sled or the thin strip cutting jig);
  - Return the machine to its default setting when finished;
  - Turn the machine totally OFF when changing the guard / riving knife
  - Do not place hands closer than 300 mm from the blade (any direction) unless using a push block or jig;
  - Never place hands between an unguarded blade and fence;
- **All equipment**
  - Use push pads / sticks;
  - Turn the machine completely OFF to remove waste & use a push stick;
  - Timber is not consistent and may jump forward;
  - Think through the risks and what will keep you safe;
  - Always wear certified safety glasses or goggles. Standard prescription spectacles are not sufficient. Members are responsible for ensuring they wear approved safety glasses while operating machinery at the club.
  - Never rush. Haste in any activity can lead to a safety incident.

Other equipment with similar risks is the Drop saw, Bandsaws, Jointer, Router, Lathes where the cutting or rotating surfaces are exposed while in use.

Subject to safety incident reviews conducted by committee representatives, members may be invoiced for damage, will be re-inducted and retrained or not be permitted to use certain machines.

*Reproduced with the permission of Jan Lacki, President, Waverley Woodworkers*



# REPORTS FROM THE GROUPS

## THURSDAY CARVERS



Christmas Lunch



John's abstract sculpture



Another carved poem by Bob Edwards  
On Sassafras from Urban Salvage, Spotswood



Mel's slow-carved wombat



## CARE FOR OUR EQUIPMENT

Charles Hooi has been maintaining and repairing the equipment at the Woodcraft Manningham clubroom on a volunteer basis for many years. He continues to spend his personal time fixing up after equipment abuses. Please remember to “engage brain” before you use any of the equipment at the Club. It is for all of us to share, but we have to take care of it.

### BRUSH TIMBER BEFORE MACHINING

Please use the wire brush to brush the timber before you put it through the thicknesser or the surface planer (jointer).



This was what I found (a STONE embedded between two cutters) when I rotated the cutters of the thicknesser.

*Charles Hooi*

### JOINTER HYGIENE

Please make sure that you open the blast gate when you use the surface planer (Jointer). When the blast gate is closed (as shown in the photo), the wood shavings will not be removed from the jointer when you use it.



Also kindly clean up the jointer after you have used it. If you need help to clean up the jointer, please speak to your group leader.

When there is a build-up of shavings inside the jointer, as shown in the photos, it may damage or even cause fire to the same.



*Charles Hooi*

## REPORTS FROM THE GROUPS

### FRIDAY CARVERS

Longstanding and much-loved and respected Club member Yen Ip recently made the big move from Melbourne to Canberra, to be closer to his family. If you know Yen, you'll know that he probably won't retire into complete obscurity there!

Yen's final Club appearance was at the Christmas lunch held last December at the Templestowe Hotel, where our poet laureate Derek Borrell read the farewell poem shown at right.

#### YEN IP FAREWELL

There was regret in the workshop hearing YEN was on his way,  
He had sold his house in Croydon without giving us a say.  
After many years a carver he was expert in the room  
But now he's off to Canberra and very very soon.

We will miss his cheerful greetings and interesting chat,  
We will miss his wise advice when checking what we're at,  
But we respect his well thought reason for intended move  
To be near and closer to family which they did all approve.

As we all should know YEN is hearing ninth decade  
But he still looks extra healthy and walks without an aid,  
Also dry wit and good humour shine bright from his eye  
Whilst impish good looks his years do belie.

He has served Woodcraft well for three decades or more,  
Displayed Show'n'Tell and took cash at the door.  
First to adopt new techniques surpassing the old,  
Lately 3D printing for well known faces to mould.

YEN knows we will miss him as he drives East with his son,  
Coffee time somewhat quieter and a little less fun  
But we expect to hear from him as he forges on ahead  
Instructing capital carvers in the Canberra Men's Shed.

Derek Borrell December 2023

### What's on Around the Traps

Feb 25 9.00-4.00	February Carving Sunday at the Club room	John Paine johnpaine137@gmail.com
April 20	Warrandyte Festival	Demonstrate, sell your wares
May 5-7	Bacchus Marsh Wood carving weekend	John Paine, Bob Edwards wm.carve.in@gmail.com
October	Wood carving weekend @ club room	TBD



## FROM AUSTRALIA TO AUSTRIA, AND BACK

I am including some photos of creating a folded wall relief in Linden. I designed it in Melbourne, started it in Elbigenalb, Austria and finished it in Melbourne.



Laying out the design in Austria



Developing the folds in Austria



Finishing the relief in Melbourne



Hanging on the wall

*Tanya Hungerford-Gerth*

A wood sculpture by Tanya has been chosen to be part of the Sculpture Victoria exhibition at McLelland Sculpture Park in Langwarrin

### WANTED

Black and Decker Workmate  
In good condition  
Contact Mel 0417 104197

### WOOD OPPORTUNITY

There is still a bit of wood left from John Wheeler's stash, including turning blanks. If anyone would like to come and have a poke around, then they can do so on **Saturday 27 January, between 2pm and 4pm.** The address is 16 Lochinvar Street, Pascoe Vale

## Colonial Schooner Sultana, Built mid 1700s



I inherited the model kit for the Sultana from the family of a deceased fellow seafarer who had opened the box but, apart from losing some important components, had not actually started construction. The kit consisted of a large rough shaped block of American Bass, some lengths of dowel of various diameters, several small lengths of various sized pieces of American Bass, a bag of poor quality pressed metal fixtures and a number of coils of fine cordage. No sign of any instructions or scale drawings of the model which are necessary to shape both the varied cross sections along the length of the model or the fore and aft sections of the hull. Damn!!

The internet provided some useful information about the Sultana, as a full sized replica of the vessel is currently sailing around Chesapeake Bay and there was some footage of the vessel under sail. A further search of the internet finally produced a set of instructions which, when printed, ran to 87 pages!! Rather more information than I needed but still no hydrodynamic hull drawings.

Any wood worker worth his salt should be able to deal with this situation. So with my favorite Veritas shoulder plane it was possible to turn the rough block into a fair facsimile of a sailing ship hull. Next step was to add the bow fittings,

keel and rudder and attach the upper deck sides and the face of the stern construction with the window details.

Further reading of the instructions suggested that attaching fine planks to the hull block would considerably add to the authentic look of the model. Cutting thin strips of 1mm thick x 10mm wide close grained wood was a challenge and would not have been possible without the very accurate Club table saw. After planking the decks, the finished result looked so much better than before. It was clear the hull also needed a similar treatment. Easily said, but it was necessary to soak each plank in water then shape the plank in a jig to achieve the right curve on the hull block. This process was also complicated by the need to often shape the plank in 2 directions without splitting the now dry wood.

I hand-carved the deck fittings instead of using the metal pressed units supplied with the kit. The wooden blocks for the shrouds were cut from bamboo chopsticks after the holes for the rope had been drilled on the drill press with the finest drill that was available. The masts and spars were stained with an old English oak spirit stain and all the wood work sealed with 2 coats of Danish oil.



*John Paine Thursday Afternoon Carvers (Not President Paine!)*



I carved this wombat from a big hunk of Himalayan Cedar that was sourced by our club wood scrounger (and consummate sculptor) Hank Tyler. The wood was full of fragrant essential oils, which made working with it very pleasant. Having spent many hours making it, I'm about to give it to my 15-month-old grandson, and I'll be interested to see how it survives.



I made a carriage to go with the wombat – there are dowels that protrude up from the carriage into holes in the feet. The carriage consists mostly of scraps of Huon Pine that I had in my workshop, and which themselves have been repurposed. The wood was originally part of the thwart end of a 19ft Jubilee yacht that used to sail around Port Phillip Bay, and which was probably built in the 1930s.

For the wheels, I used cast-off blanks from Bryan Thompson, who originally made them in large quantities using a hole saw and a

variety of types of timber. Bryan used such blanks many years ago, when teaching the carving of cabinet knobs. The image below shows a sample of the designs he taught.



Yes, they look like a selection of bikkies, but they're wood.

Let's see how long the carriage can withstand the attentions of my grandson.

*Mel Forbes*

## NEW IN THE LIBRARY

### Magazines

#### Australian Wood Review

Dec 2023

#### Woodcarving Illustrated

Dec 2023

### Books

Creating Wooden Boxes on the Scroll Saw: 428

Sharpening Carving Tools: 1222

Woodcarving - Techniques & Projects for the First-Time Carver: 1221

## TOY GROUP

These are the toys that we have been making recently. We distributed them to the Salvos and DonCare during Xmas. There are 6 of us in the Toy Group.



We have taken over distribution of the Toy Kits from the daughter of the toy-charity founder for the past year. Since Covid-19 hit, those organisations which had used the toy kits for their activities have not ordered much of the same. In order for the Toy Group to continue, we need to find a way to distribute the toy kits. Any suggestions will be much appreciated.

*Charles Hooi*