



WOODCRAFT MATTERS

THE NEWSLETTER OF WOODCRAFT MANNINGHAM

JANUARY 2026

President's Report: A New Year of Craftsmanship

Hello Woodcraft Manningham members,
Welcome to 2026! A new year brings new goals, fresh timber, and the shared aspirations of our community. As we settle back into our routines, please remember that our various groups are resuming at different times—be sure to check with your group leader if you are unsure of your start date.

Reflecting on the end of 2025, our **Christmas Lunch** on December 12th at the Templestowe Hotel was another fantastic success. We had 45 members in attendance, enjoying great food and even better company. A huge thank you to **Bill Wood** for his excellent organization of the event.

Thank you again for your continued support and dedication to the club. Let's make 2026 a safe and productive year!

Upcoming Events & Key Dates

Club Meeting: Guitar Making with Mark Thompson

Date: 16 February, 10:30 AM

Guest Speaker: Mark Thompson (Eltham Woodwork Club)

Topic: The intricate art of making guitars.

Lunch: Stick around after the talk! A Pizza Lunch (included) will follow the meeting at 12:00 pm.

Warrandyte Festival

Date: 28 March 2026

Details: We will be participating again this year. Please refer to the flyer on page 3 for more information on how you can get involved.

Bacchus Marsh Carve-In

Date: 1–3 May 2026

Details: A great opportunity for those interested in carving. Full details and sign-up info are available on the club notice board.

Workshop & Safety Updates

Equipment Care: The SawStop

Charles has brought a recurring issue to my attention. Frequently, when he arrives to service our machinery, he finds the **SawStop table saw has not been turned off** at the main switch.

Important: Please ensure the switch on the machine is turned off so the red light is out before you leave the station.

Locking & Closing the Building

To ensure the security of our workshop, I have put together a **Checklist/Reminder** for the last person leaving the building.

Where to find it: Posted near the door above the rubbish bin. Plus, refer to page 2 of this newsletter.

Action: Please run through this list as you are tidying up to ensure everything is locked and powered down.

Safety Spotlight: Table Saw Guards

I recently watched a video regarding table saw safety that hit home. While we all know it can be "easier" to work with the guard removed, the statistics show that the vast majority of accidents occur when the guard is off—even when it could have been used for the cut.

This is a vital reminder for all of us, especially when working in your home workshops. **Keep the guard in place whenever possible.**

John Paine, President

Woodcraft Manningham

www.woodcraft-manningham.org.au

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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

Procedure for Closing/Locking Clubhouse

Clean

Floor swept/Vacuumed
Kitchen tidy
Rubbish bin must be put out on Wednesday afternoon

Lock/Close

Group cupboards
Back door closed
Front door locked (when door is propped open after you arrive, re-lock it so that it will lock automatically when you leave)

Turn Off

Air conditioning x 2
Ceiling-mounted dust filters x 2
Saw stop table saw (no red or green light)
Dust extraction off
Lights off
Hot water urn in kitchen

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)

Warrandyte Festival – Saturday 28 March 2026

This is a great chance to be part of the club in the community. Everyone who comes has a great day, making boxes with the kids and talking to the public about the club

What we will do

Make bird boxes with kids (same as last year) kids pay \$5.00

Live demonstrations of Wood turning, Carving, Box making

Selling items that members have made and donated to the club to sell eg. Kids' toys, chopping boards, carved items.

Sell members own woodwork items 10% to club.

Tell the public about the club.

How you can help

Help kids with assembling the bird box kits.

Wood turning.

Bring your own project & demonstrate the steps in making

Help with selling items.

Speak to the public about the club/hand out brochures

Where

Stiggant Street, Warrandyte

Times – 9 AM – 5 PM We clean up after 5pm

This year the club will have the same position at the festival.

Parking will be available at Bill Wood's house which is close by.

The Saturday morning is quiet until about 11.00 due to the parade.

Please sign up on the information board above the sign-in book



For all You Parents and Grandparents

You may be interested in children's tools available at Dragonfly toys at the Abbotsford convent. Trevor bought a stop at a very good price. They also have carving knives for kids. dragonflytoys.com.au

Bob Edwards

REPORTS FROM THE GROUPS

Thursday AM



The Thursday Morning Carvers at the end of 2025, missing only Bob Edwards



Some carved waves in Huon Pine, and a collection of comfort birds completed by Mark Heland at the end of last year.



Philip Lind's abstract carving from a single piece of black heart sassafras

REPORTS FROM THE GROUPS

Thursday AM (cont)



Six owls Hank is currently working on: the four on the right have been sanded, and the two on the left are being roughed out.



John Paine with some carved gum leaves done in Cypress Pine off cuts collected at the Sorrento Pier



Mel Forbes with his carved and painted tree frog



REPORTS FROM THE GROUPS

Thursday AM (cont)



Nick with his Rhinoceros carved from a piece of Spruce that came from a packing crate



Mel Forbes with his Bunny with an amazing finish

Thursday PM

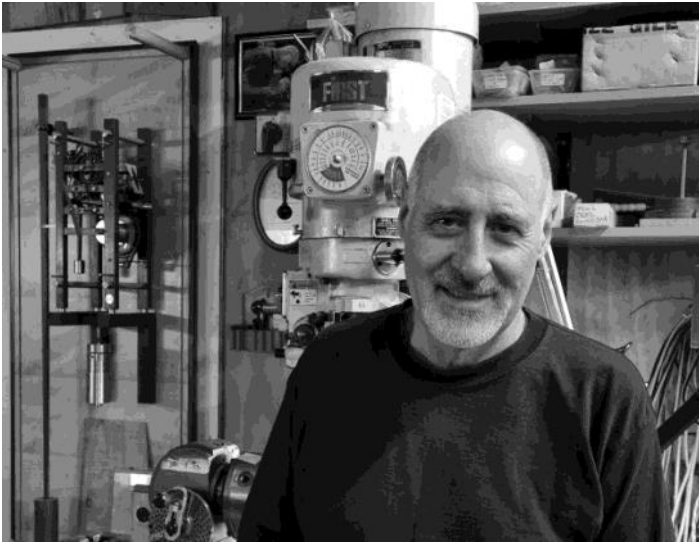


Thursday afternoon carvers

Friday PM



Friday afternoon Box makers



Vale Will Matthysen, Master Craftsman

Will was noted for making exquisite and functional clocks out of fine timbers. A notable achievement was his creation of a clock for "Create From a Crate" several years ago.

For full details [click here](#) (courtesy of Australian Wood Review)

Woodcraft Manningham Wood Carving day

Saturday 31 January 2026 (start 9am)

This will be a chance to meet with other carvers from Woodcraft Manningham & other-clubs' carvers who have attended Bacchus Marsh Carve-in. Just a great day of carving together.

Show & Tell during morning tea.

We can fit in a total of 20 carvers on the day (this will be capped), so it's important to book with me if you can come.

Lunch \$10.00 Domino's pizza or bring your lunch

Machines to 10 am, power carving outside

John Paine & Mark Heland

Any enquires email or 0473 579 508

A SELECTION OF WOOD PORN

[Old-timers' woodworking tips](#)

[You'll never see a woodworking shop like this one](#)

[How to really sharpen a card scraper](#)

My Trip to Italy

Gino Centofanti

Sightseeing

On Saturday 13th of December, I flew to Italy to meet up with my son, visit my relatives and to take a mini holiday up north, so I stopped off in Milan first before travelling south to central Italy where I was born and where my relatives reside.

While in Milan I visited the Duomo which would be the most intricate church I have ever seen in my life, it simply did not get old for me. I went past it every day the entire week I was in Milan. Seeing it in different weather conditions, it just looked different every time.

I didn't find the time to visit the inside until my second last day there. I took hundreds of photos of the inside and up on the roof, it was simply amazing. Here are some of the wood-type works I took photos of for your viewing pleasure.

I might even try carving some of the stone shapes I saw for some future project.



Gino Centofanti (cont)

The quest for riffler files

During my Milano trip I wanted to try and purchase some Riffler rasps as I could not find any of quality in Australia for love or money (as they say).

I did my research before leaving Australia and while in Milan, and the most viable option was a family-owned business called **B&B Artigiana**. They make all types of rasps which are all hand cut, even specialist violin making rasps.



As a bit of a side story there was some confusion regarding which train and platform to get, to arrive at the town of Olgiate-Calco-Brivio where the factory is located.

I met this lovely young man who ended up being a train driver, who as expected knew exactly what to do. Long story short, he got me to ride up front where the driver sits, with him and two other colleagues where one of his colleagues did the driving. I will never forget his kindness.



This was the view from the train driver's seat.

Back to the riffler files. On getting to the town early I walked to the factory even though the owner had offered to pick me up from the station the day prior, I was early anyway.

Mauro and his sister Alessia were so lovely, they patiently showed me all the file types, and I even bought a carving chisel a "V" tool. I thought the prices were very reasonable - I paid \$25 euro which converted to \$44 Australian for the chisel.

The riffler rasps go through a special hardening procedure where they add extra carbon to the steel prior to tempering.

These files are meant for stone so will last a lifetime if used on wood.

They have a website, www.bbartigiana.it (it can be in either Italian or English) and will take and ship orders overseas. There is also a downloadable catalogue so you can see all their products.



The Art of Woodcraft Manningham

Artworks on display at the WM Clubhouse—History by Bryan Thompson



Title:- Traditional Victorian Mirror Frame

Date :- Feb 2020

Carvers :- Crest, Bob Edwards.

Frame, Bryan Thompson.

Timbers:- Swietenia macrophylla

Crest:- Mahogany from Fiji

Frame:- Mahogany from South America