

# NEWSLETTER



[benallawoodworkers@gmail.com](mailto:benallawoodworkers@gmail.com)

4 Lowry Place Benalla

*Incorporated Association A0022060J*

ABN 81194958635



Australian Men's Shed Association  
AMSA101519



Christmas  
2022

## Aims of the association:

1. To provide members with the opportunity to meet & exchange ideas with other woodworkers.
2. To promote a greater understanding of all aspects of woodworking, old and new methods.
3. To provide a **safe** and friendly woodworking workshop for the members of the association.
4. To provide local woodworkers with the opportunity for wider recognition of their work.
5. To assist members to recognise local trees and the sources of local wood.
6. To encourage and implement the safe and responsible use of hand tools and power tools.
7. To be a positive contributor to the Men's Shed movement and the Benalla community.

<b>President</b>	Steve Johansen	0436 479 344
<b>Secretary</b>	Les Maclean	0429 133 223
<b>Treasurer</b>	Errol Cotton-Stapleton	0429 999 093
<b>Vice President</b>	Bob Preece	0408 694 820
<b>Asst Secretary</b>	Mike Kyval	0497 559 677
<b>Asst Treasurer</b>	Brad Lewis	0417 500 604
<b>Maintenance</b>	Robin Tonks	0447 068 817
<b>Purchasing</b>	Graeme Dossor	0427 272 179
<b>D&amp;I kids</b>	Don Varcoe	0409 274 027



## Coming events

### December

**Wednesday 7th D&I kids**

**Wednesday 14th End of year Christmas lunch - see below**

**Sunday 18th Last workshop day for 2022**

### January 2023

**Wednesday 11th First day back in the workshop.**

**Wednesday 25th January General meeting**

**\$20**

## Benalla Bowls Club

Christmas function menu - 12:00 to 3:00pm



#### Nibbles:

- Bowls of nuts, mix & lollies

#### Mains:

- Turkey & honey baked ham with scalloped potatoes and steamed greens

#### Dessert:

- Plum pudding with brandy custard and ice cream
- Pavlova with tropical fruits and raspberry coolie

Part subsidised by the Club!



## President's Comments

Welcome to the Christmas newsletter. Lots of news since the Spring edition, mainly due to the strange rainy weather.

\* The workshop was flooded to a depth of around 30cm resulting in damage to at least 3 of our motors. (Pages 5 & 6)

\* The "Day in the Gardens" became The "Day on Denny" as the annual market day was moved to higher ground. (Page 7)

However it has been business as usual in the workshop as you will see in the Show & Tell pictures. (Pages 3,4&8)

Thanks to our esteemed Vice President Bob for taking the reins while I was on holiday in September and early October. Thanks also to everyone working behind the scenes to clean

up the workshop, make the Santa chair and ballot box for the bowls club, and look after the many new members.

As you will see above, we have booked the Benalla Bowls Club function room for our end of year Christmas dinner. The cost is usually \$26.50 per person but the club is part subsidising the fee so you only pay \$20 each. Please pay Errol soon if you intend going.

Our last workshop session is on 18th December and we will be back on 11th January. Finally, on behalf of the committee I would like to wish you all a very merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Steve Johansen



# October Show & Tell



Mike brought in his restored shelf unit, Telecom exchange seat and candles



Don had heaps of goodies for the Day in the Gardens market. Unfortunately I didn't get a picture of it all but you can see a glimpse of the sewing boxes behind the shelf above. Sorry Don.



Les brought in this superb blanket box and a chopping board



Brad showed us his reed diffuser in a tree branch, very arty Brad.





# October Show & Tell

VOLUME 38 NUMBER 4



Errol brought in a turned bowl, end-grain chopping board and a medallion display ball.



Alan's tall vase and chisel handle



The Bowls Club Santa chair under construction, thanks to Les, Doug and Bob (anyone else involved?)

The Bowls Club were very happy with the outcome. Check out the front cover picture in this newsletter for the finished article, modelled by our lovely treasurer Errol.



# Benalla floods

VOLUME 38 NUMBER 4



As you know, there has been a bit of a water problem lately - mainly too much of it! Unfortunately our shed did not escape flooding with about 30cm of water flowing through the workshop.

Several motors were submerged and all but three have been successfully dried out and returned to service. We are working on replacing or repairing the damaged units.

Our paper records, warranty papers and instruction manuals were unsalvageable, but overall we fared pretty well considering. Thanks to all who helped clean up the mess and dry out the equipment.



PAGE 5



PAGE 5

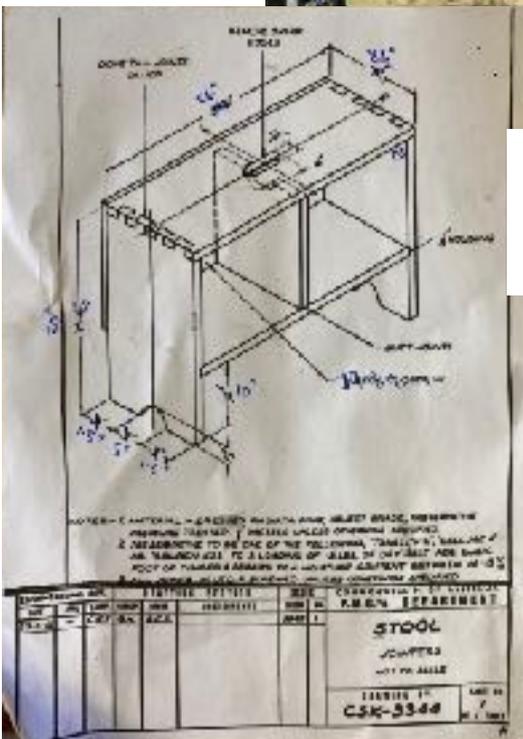


# Benalla floods - after...



After the flood clean up came the feast!

Thanks to those that brought in goodies for us that day. Especially Sue Berry, your cake was delicious!



If anyone is interested in making their own PMG linesman stool (as displayed at the October General Meeting Show & Tell). Mike has dug up the plans.





# Day on Denny

VOLUME 38 NUMBER 4



The annual "Day in the Gardens" became the "Day on Denny" when it was decided the gardens were too wet to hold the event there.

We had an excellent location at the end of the toilet block and were kept busy for most of the day interacting with the public and selling lots of things our members have made over the year.

We had a very quick pack up at around 2:30 to (almost) beat the thunderstorm and resulting deluge.

Thanks to all the members who manned the stall during the day.



Mmmm ice cream, so good to wear! PAGE 7



# November Show & Tell

VOLUME 38 NUMBER 4



Les brought in a child's pull along dog



Graeme's salt & pepper set



Leo's box collection



Mike's two camphor laurel bowls & a chopping board



Bob's box collection



# The Mouseman

VOLUME 38 NUMBER 4

While Sue and I were in England recently we paid a visit to the town of Kilburn in North Yorkshire. We wanted to see the workshops where the famous "Mouseman" furniture is still created by Robert Thompson's Craftsmen Ltd., to this day.

Robert Thompson was born in Kilburn in 1876 the son of the local joiner and wheelwright. He taught himself to use the traditional tools of medieval craftsmen and, by 1919, was experimenting with ideas for furniture based on the English styles of the 17th century. He was determined to realise his dream of bringing back the spirit of craftsmanship in English oak.

The now famous mouse symbol, hand carved on every item, has an uncertain history. The story told by Robert Thompson himself is that one of his craftsmen remarked that they were as poor as church mice, whereupon Robert carved a mouse on the church rafter he was working on. That particular mouse has never been found but it has continued as a mark of quality and dedication to craftsmanship ever since.

We could see the workshop in action, where several craftsmen were busy creating wonderful items out of oak - all with the iconic mouse carving. One worker told us how Robert Thompson didn't like even, flat surfaces so all the furniture pieces are hand finished with an adze, scraped by hand before sanding and waxing to give a delightful rippled surface. We also toured the showroom to inspect the beautiful finished creations. Little wonder the work produced is so expensive - even second hand or antique pieces fetch a tidy sum. Sadly it was all beyond our meagre budget once converted to Aussie dollars, but it was so inspirational.

You can check it out for yourself online at.

<https://www.robertthompsons.co.uk/>

Steve Johansen



