



# The Wonthaggi Woody

[www.wonthaggiwoodcrafters.com.au](http://www.wonthaggiwoodcrafters.com.au)



**Wonthaggi Woodcrafters**  
**P. O. Box 477 Wonthaggi 3995**  
**Jean Melzer Centre**  
**239 White Road**  
**Wonthaggi 3995**

**ISSUE**

**224**

**November**  
**2025**

## COMMITTEE:

### PRESIDENT:

*Peter Myers* - 0413 122 103

### VICE PRESIDENT:

*Syd Gordon* - 0434 614 573

### SECRETARY:

*David Carlos* - 0423 623 138

### TREASURER:

*Lex Van Saane* - 0417 010 941

## COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

*Neil Lenne* - 0417 343 112

*Alan Hurst* - 0427 393 234

*Tina Kalivas* - 0425 701 629

*Frank Kisvarda* - 0418 177 505

*Sandra Pietrolungo* - 0425 703 399

*Hartley Tobin* - 0400 359 976

## CONTACTS:

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### Secretary

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### Newsletter

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## DIARY 2025

November 15th - Bunnings BBQ

November 29th - Christmas shop begins

December 1st - Committee Meeting

December 4th - Christmas function

December 20th - Christmas Shop close

December 26th - Bunnings BBQ

January 10th - Working bee

January 12th - Woodies restart

February 2nd - Committee Meeting

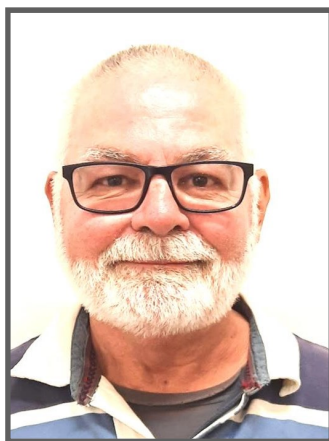
February 9th - Members' Meeting

March 2nd - Committee Meeting

March 9th - Members' Meeting

April 3rd-6th - Easter events TBA

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Welcome fellow Woodies to our November 2025 newsletter.

It has been another successful year on many fronts, but there is much to do in the near future to further advance our club, especially regarding our proposed new workshop.

Our Christmas shop starts on Saturday the 29 th of November, so hopefully you have been busy making items for sale. This year we have made some changes regarding our item entry process which has also led to changes for the actual sales day procedures as well.

These changes have been documented and distributed for item entry and will be emailed for the daily process shortly. We are attempting to simplify the whole system for everybody. If you have entered items for sale please ensure you commit to spending some sessions on duty at the event.

Also coming up is our Christmas lunch, I hope to see many of you there on 4th December.

On behalf of myself and the Woodies Committee, thank you to those who have volunteered this year at Bunnings BBQ's, Sales Events, Members' meeting meals and raffle ticket taking, organising our major raffle, working bees, supervising work sessions, organising guest speakers, organising Christmas in August??? and special afternoon teas, mentoring other members, supporting other members in need and anything else I have forgotten (my apologies) that has made this club such a great community. We look forward to many more of you doing so in 2026.

Stay safe, enjoy the last few sessions before we close and have a great break. Looking forward to seeing you all back next year.

Cheers, Pete Myers.

## COMMITTEE NEWS

**November 15th Bunnings BBQ.** The Bunnings BBQ on Saturday November 15th went very well. Thanks to Peter and Alex and the other members who gave their time to help. The roster is on the noticeboard for the final **Bunnings BBQ on Boxing Day , 26th December.** It'll be our last chance to make some valuable income for the Club this year and this day should be boomer.

**The Woodies Annual Christmas Shop** opens on Saturday 29th November through to Saturday 20th December. Open daily from 10am to 4pm. The shop will be conducted at the Club as has been the case now for several years. Setting up shop in the turning room - Thursday 27th Nov. Members bring in sale items Friday 28th 11am to 3pm. Last year around 800 items were sold, so it's a great fundraiser for the Club and helps members redeem some of their woodworking expenses from throughout the year. If your name is not on the roster yet, there's still plenty of spaces. **REMEMBER** that if you put items in for sale it is expected you will be on the roster.

**New Procedures for the Christmas Shop.** It is different, so if you intend putting your creations in, it's essential that you read the email sent to all members on 13th November.

**Final dates for 2025 workshop sessions.** The last day for all turning sessions is Monday 24th November. Other workshop sessions finish with carving on the morning of Friday 28th. There will be a maintenance and general working bee on Saturday 10th January and the Club re-opens for workshop sessions on Monday 12th January 2026. More detailed information to follow.

**End of Year Raffle** - A disappointing number of raffle tickets and money have so far been returned. At the Woodies we try to keep our fees low by fundraising. The raffle is a big part of that. There are more than 30 great prizes this year, so 10 tickets for just \$10 is a bargain. Please get your tickets and money back by giving it to Neil Lenne or another session supervisor, or direct deposit to the club's account designated 'raffle and surname'. Then drop the tickets at the Club. Tickets and money must be in by 28th November latest please. The raffle will be drawn at the end of year function

**End of Year function at the Workingmen's Club** - on Thursday 4th December. Arrive at 12 noon and lunch is served at 12.30pm. Names needed to be on the list at the Club early as we had to provide numbers to the venue by 17th November. Payment of \$40 pp for a 2 course meal may be made at the Woodies in cash or by EFTPOS, or directly into our bank account designated **function** and

## COMMITTEE NEWS

your **surname**. Neil needed to be informed about any special dietary requirements by the 17th Nov.

**Grants** - As has been previously mentioned, we have been successful with two grant applications.

**Thanks to Bendigo Community Bank Inverloch** we will be conducting First Aid Courses fairly early in 2026. We have funds for 15 members to do a Level 1 and 5 members to do a Level 2 course. It will include catered lunch for all participants. Full details in the New Year.

**Thanks to Bass Coast Shire Council**, we are now able to update our technology with two new laptops, scanners, external hard drive, cases and sundries, through a Community Grant. This will enable us to use QR codes for our library and assets register, a computer for the Secretary and one for members to use with woodcraft associated projects.

## WOODIES WORKSHOP SESSIONS

### **WOODTURNING: Regular Sessions**

|                                                                      |                   |              |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|--------------|
| Monday 9 am to 12 noon                                               | - Hartley Tobin:  | 0400 359 976 |
|                                                                      | Neil Lenne:       | 0417 343 112 |
| Monday 1pm to 4pm                                                    | Michael Bladen    | 0428 270 850 |
| Times for this session may vary on 1st and 2nd Mondays of the month. |                   |              |
| Monday 5 pm to 8 pm                                                  | - John DiStefano: | 0482 173 799 |
| Friday 9 am to 12 noon                                               | - Hartley Tobin:  | 0400 359 976 |
|                                                                      | - Neil Lenne:     | 0417 343 112 |

### **SEGMENTED TURNING: Regular Sessions**

|                       |                 |              |
|-----------------------|-----------------|--------------|
| Friday 9am to 12 noon | - Grant Crocker | 0418 121 592 |
|-----------------------|-----------------|--------------|

### **TOY GROUP: Regular Sessions**

|                    |               |              |
|--------------------|---------------|--------------|
| Tuesday 9am to 4pm | - Peter Myers | 0413 122 103 |
|--------------------|---------------|--------------|

### **PYROGRAPHY: Regular Sessions**

|                    |                   |              |
|--------------------|-------------------|--------------|
| Friday 1pm to 4 pm | - Michael Bladen: | 0428 270 850 |
|--------------------|-------------------|--------------|

### **SCROLL SAWING: Regular Sessions**

|                          |                |              |
|--------------------------|----------------|--------------|
| Wednesday 9am to 12 noon | - Lionel Wood: | 0490 695 950 |
|                          | Syd Gordon:    | 0434 614 573 |

### **JOINERY: Regular Sessions**

|                         |                                                                                                                                    |              |
|-------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| Thursday 9am to 12 noon | - Syd Gordon                                                                                                                       | 0434 614 573 |
| Thursday 1pm to 4pm     | - Tina Kalivas, Peter Myers and David Carlos - specialised session - it is essential to contact Syd Gordon to access this session. |              |

### **CARVING: Regular Sessions**

|                       |                |           |
|-----------------------|----------------|-----------|
| Friday 9am to 12 noon | - Harry Smith: | 5674 8078 |
|-----------------------|----------------|-----------|

### **KUMIKO: Regular sessions**

|                       |              |              |
|-----------------------|--------------|--------------|
| Monday 9am to 12 noon | - Syd Gordon | 0434 614 573 |
|-----------------------|--------------|--------------|

### **WOODEN JEWELLERY: These sessions are on demand only.**

Contact Syd Gordon for current information.

|                   |              |              |
|-------------------|--------------|--------------|
| Friday 1pm to 4pm | - Syd Gordon | 0434 614 573 |
|-------------------|--------------|--------------|

**Please contact the appropriate Supervisor if you would like to join a session, or to notify that you will be absent from your regular session.**

## NEWHAVEN SALES EVENT

The Newhaven Hall sales event with Phillip Island Patchworkers went very well once again. Disappointingly, only 7 Woodies members contributed items, but the event was busy and about \$2200 was taken. Because a lot of toys were sold, this meant a \$600 profit for the Club.

**We would sincerely like to thank the Patchworkers for once again offering us the opportunity to be involved.**

Thanks also to those Woodies who gave their time to supervise the shop and especially to Syd who was there every day to oversee our trial of a QR code system. Please note recent emails to all members and elsewhere in this Newsletter, have clarified that the QR code system will not be used at our Christmas Shop or future events until the heavy workload involved can be resolved. See below photos taken at Newhaven with Syd, Tina, Sandra and John on duty.



## JOKE OF THE MONTH

A boy asks his father, "Dad, are bugs good to eat?" "That's disgusting. Don't talk about things like that over dinner," the dad replies. After dinner the father asks, "Now, son, what did you want to ask me?" "Oh, nothing," the boy says. "There was a bug in your soup, but now it's gone."



Lynn and Neil Lenne managed and catered for an afternoon tea at the Woodies on Saturday 25th October. The event was enjoyed by 28 members and partners. As always, Lynn did a magnificent job with the food. She made and cooked everything herself. The plates of to 'die-for' vanilla slices and other delights went quickly. As did the scones and variety of savouries. Thank you Neil and Lynn for your wonderful contribution. Below Syd presents Lynn with flowers as a thank you. Bottom, everyone was keen to tuck in ... but not before a photo was taken.



**Buy/Swap/Sell/Giveaway.** About 15 people attended, but there was a lot of 'stuff' for sale or to give away. No-one went away disappointed.



## CLUB EVENTS

### The October Members' Meeting

Was attended by 23 members. Lunch was organised by Tina Kalivas and included a variety of Greek treats. A lovely change from the usual sausage sizzle. The array of Show & Tell items was impressive as evidenced later in this Newsletter. The guest speaker was Harry Freeman, Vice President of Wonthaggi U3A, co-tenants on our site. He spoke about what U3A is and what it offers, the courses and programs, the people, the experiences. He was also proud of the strong relationship over many years between U3A and the Woodies.



Some of the Kamiko group displaying their recent amazing work



## CLUB EVENTS

### - BUNNINGS BBQ -

The event conducted on November 15th was very successful, thanks to a great crew of 8 assistants pictured below. This includes the 'prime mover' BBQ Captain, Peter Myers, *aka* The Photographer. Thanks everyone, a great boost for our Club's finances.



Last week Peter, Hartley and Alan attended the VMSEA Network Meeting at Cowes RSL. Nice lunch and welcome by the Cowes Men's Shed. Unfortunately only 6 Sheds were represented from a large network of Sheds throughout west and south Gippsland.

However, we were privileged to listen to guest speaker, Mat Bowtell from **FREE 3D HANDS**. There is more information about Mat and his incredible organisation on Page 8 of this Newsletter.



## SHOW & TELL

The chopping board was made by Fred Demenech from Redgum, English Oak and some unknown timbers.

The very unusual table was made by David Carlos using only leftover pieces and scraps of timber from previous projects.

The cylinder photo does not do this piece justice. It is made to look into the flawed section through resin.

The small vase was made from Gidgee by Tony Hirini.



## SHOW & TELL

The square bowl was made by Geoff Rippingdale from American Oak before ebonising and final turning.

The twin containers/cups were made by Brian Johnson from Apricot.

The large bowl was made by Craig Charles from Jacaranda, a beautiful, much underrated timber.



## SHOW & TELL

The Pot Pourri bowl was made by Johan Vaessen from pine.

The square bowl was Brian Johnson's first attempt at making a bowl from a square piece of timber. It's made from Redgum. At the bottom is Johan's first attempt using the bowl saver. He has since created a beautiful bowl with the larger piece and is planning what to do with the smaller segment



## SHOW & TELL

The chopping board was made by Fred Demenech mainly from Redgum and English Oak.

Made by Lisa Huitson, one of our newer members, this box was made from an unknown timber and features a partitioned tray and nicely made splines of a contrasting timber. Well done Lisa.

The three containers/vases at bottom were made by Johan from Blackwood, Eucalypt and Pine.



## SHOW & TELL

**Below:** The top creation features 'the impossible shape' and was made by John DiStefano. Timber used is Cypress, Oak, Redgum and Ash. Fantastic skills here.

The bowl was made by Alan Hurst from Jacaranda.

Also by Alan Hurst, the vase was made from a branch crutch of Wattle



## SHOW & TELL

**Below:** These two bowls are examples of what the Monday evening turning group are working on. The top one by John DiStefano features a nicely figured Camphor Laurel base with Merbau and Oak. The second one was a similar pattern made by Steve Edge with Merbau and Oak again a nicely featured base.

The 3 point segmented bowl was made by John DiStefano from Redgum, Sheoak and Huon Pine. An interesting challenge for those who have not tried this shape.



## SHOW & TELL

**Below** - The table is the finished product featured in an earlier Newsletter, made by David Carlos. Amazing design.

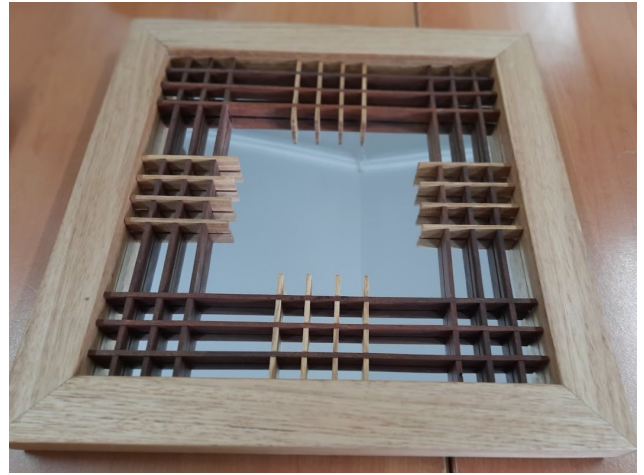
The fireside set handles and base was made by Tony Hirini mostly from Gidgee.



## SHOW & TELL

The piece of Kumiko inset onto a framed mirror was made by Sandra Pietrolungo shows great creativity . Beautiful.

The giant peg (big clothes in the family??) was made by David Carlos from Cypress and KD hardwood - and it does work. That spring is powerful!



The picture at left will (hopefully) be in the Sentinel Times November 25th edition. It is the Woodies Kumiko group with some of their amazing recent work. There are a couple of people missing, but pictured below are Sandra Pietrolungo, Grant Crocker, Tina Kalivas and Leanne Eames. Any other members who would like to learn the skills of this unique form of woodcraftin should speak to Syd Gordon , or any of the other members of this group which meets on Monday mornings.

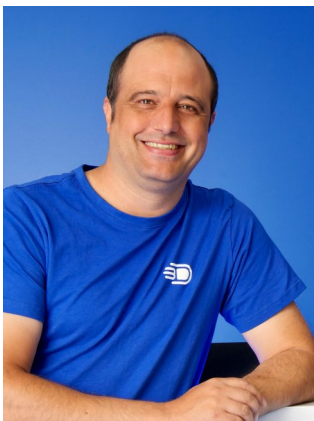
## FREE 3D HANDS

### Driven by purpose, not by profit

Free 3D Hands is a charity based on Phillip Island at Newhaven, which designs and manufactures 3D printed assistive devices. They don't charge recipients a cent, not even for postage. They also share their designs open source, so more people around the world can access quality assistive technology.

The story of Mat Bowtell who founded and manages this not-for-profit group is nothing short of incredible. He has assisted children and adults world wide. Now extending to 56 countries, Mat also shares his designs under an open-source licence, so others can make and repair their own devices and to encourage further innovation.

#### Mat's story



Mat worked as a senior engineer at Toyota in Australia and Japan for ten years before the automotive industry shutdown. He is passionate about the global sharing of technology and ideas, with the goal of making assistive technology freely available to those who need it most. It's been a long and often bumpy and challenging ride to get to this

stage. But for Mat it's been his passion and irrevocable belief in giving a better life to people who could not afford the commercial cost of these devices. It's all been worth it, but Mat believes there is still much more to be done.

There are over 1 billion people around the world who require assistive devices. This number is predicted to double by 2030. For 90% of those people, access to assistive technology remains limited. Free 3D Hands exists to provide high-quality, low-cost designs for assistive devices for people with upper limb differences ... for free.

*Here's a couple of links to find out more.*

[https://youtu.be/\\_5OBIEMMftY](https://youtu.be/_5OBIEMMftY)

<https://free3dhands.org/about-us/>

Free 3D Hands gets no Government funding, but relies on generosity. Donations come from all sorts of people including philanthropists who don't look for recognition.

[Anyone can donate and it's always welcomed.](#)

**Alan.**

## HEALTH & SAFETY

### BE AWARE OF RSV & COVID IS AROUND

**Respiratory Syncytial Virus, or RSV**, is a common, highly contagious virus in Australia that causes mild cold-like symptoms, but can lead to severe lower respiratory tract infections like bronchiolitis and pneumonia. It is a virus that causes infection in the lungs and airways.

At particular risk are infants under five, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, adults over 75 and other older adults with medical conditions, or with compromised immune systems. RSV became a notifiable disease in Australia in 2021, and new vaccines and monoclonal antibody treatments are now available to protect vulnerable groups.

Like Influenza and colds, seasonal outbreaks typically occur in the autumn and winter months. If you are concerned, it is important to see your doctor.

**COVID is still here** and people are reporting being affected around Bass Coast. Be aware, take care, get your anti-virals and stay at home if you contract it.



### BUT I WAS FRAMED!

**NOT GUILTY!!!** Yohan found this frame amongst some timber given to the Club. Not the Mona Lisa but a very impressive picture just the same Johan.



# WELCOME!

## NEW MEMBERS

There was one new members since the last Newsletter and we welcome -

**ROBERT RAY**

Everyone is encouraged to make all new members feel welcome and at home at the Club and to assist and support them.

**CURRENT TOTAL MEMBERSHIP: 100**



A very happy birthday to the following Members:

**Neil Bateman**

**David Carlos**

**John Langford**

**Lex Van Saane**

**Lois Williams**

There are still a few birthdays not on our records. If we've missed you, please let David Carlos know or email - [woodiessec@gmail.com](mailto:woodiessec@gmail.com)



Please send any relevant articles, photos of interest or of your latest project, items to buy or sell, woodworking tips, tricks and jigs, or just any general suggestions for the Newsletter by 16th of each month to -

**[woodiesnews@gmail.com](mailto:woodiesnews@gmail.com)**

## SAVINGS ON EXPENDABLES

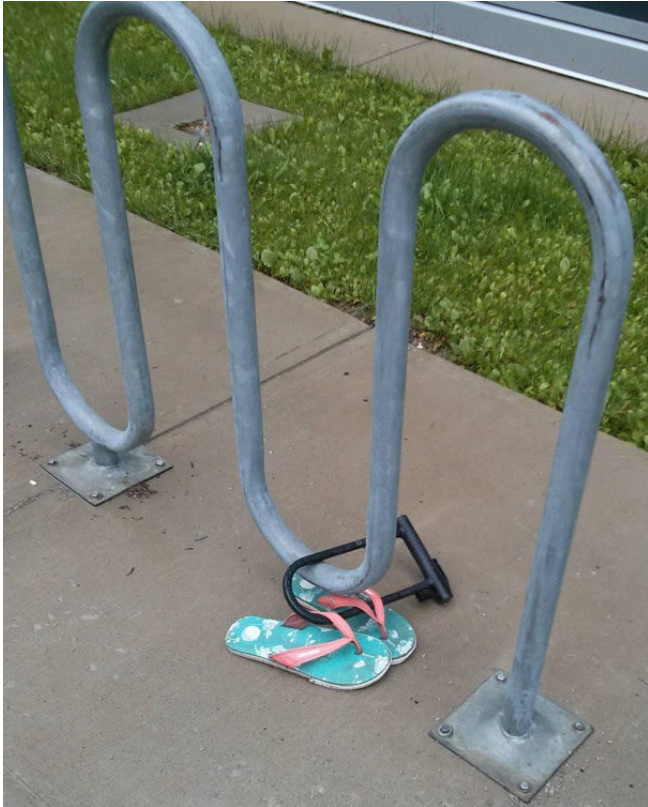
**MOST STOCK IS PURCHASED IN BULK, SO PRICES ARE MINIMISED:** Shellawax, Glow, EEE, super glue and sandpaper are all in smaller quantities as full sizes of these products are expensive. Neil has just purchased a range of 2" (50mm) and 3" (75mm) hook and loop type sanding discs. Also available are 1cm thick 75mm hook and loop medium density foam backing pads. All items are on-sold at cost price. We also have basic earmuffs, safety glasses and Covid-safe masks if you'd like to wear one. However, if possible it's best to have your own. If you are interested in purchasing any of these items, see your session supervisor for prices and availability.

We now have for safety reasons CA SuperGlue de-bonder. A lot of CA is used, especially in turning. It is too easy to get your fingers glued together, rags glued to your work or hands, or work fixed incorrectly. The prime culprit is often very thin CA. The de-bonder will work in these situations. However, a better, safer idea is to use Nitrile gloves when using these glues. Nitrile gloves come in various hand sizes, are better than rubber or other gloves and are not expensive. These days a box of 100 will cost as little as \$12 to \$16. Have a look at Amazon, Temu and Ebay for the best prices, but local hardware stores also stock them.



**WE'LL JUST CALL THIS OUR "FUNNIES" PAGE**

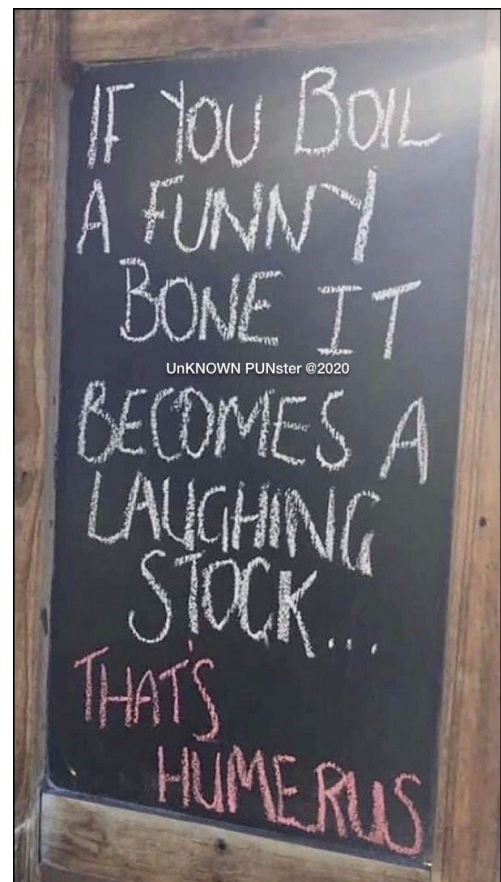
**Must be an awful lot of theft  
in this place!**



**The adult version of  
"head, shoulders,  
knees and toes" is  
"wallet, glasses,  
keys and phone."**

**Just burned 3,000  
calories! That's the  
last time I leave  
brownies in the oven  
while I take a nap.**

**So I was in a shoe shop  
this morning trying on  
a shoe, I said to the  
assistant "It's too  
tight".  
She said "Try it with  
the tongue out"  
I said "It'th nho ghoo,  
it'th thtill thoo thight".**



**sometimes I  
wonder what  
happened to  
the people  
who asked me  
for directions?**

## CONTRIBUTIONS TO NEWSLETTER SEGMENTS?

If you have any funny stories, articles, *Tips, Tricks & Jigs*, favourite gadgets, items to sell or buy, interesting websites, pictures of things you've created or work in progress, send them to - [woodiesnews@gmail.com](mailto:woodiesnews@gmail.com)  
**Articles must be received no later than the 16<sup>th</sup> of the month please**, to be included in the next Newsletter.

## WOODIES CLASSIFIEDS

There are two categories; "For Sale" if you have any tools or woodworking equipment to liquidate, and "Wanted" for those of you who are looking for preloved tools or equipment that other members may be willing to part with. There is no cost, except if it is a commercial arrangement.

All you need to do to get an advert in, is write a short description (including contact details) of the item that you are selling, or wish to buy and send it to [woodiesnews@gmail.com](mailto:woodiesnews@gmail.com) along with any photographs where appropriate.

**Entries must be received by 16th of the month** to be included in the next newsletter. Items can appear in two consecutive newsletters unless sold or otherwise requested.

## THANKS TO WONTHAGGI WOODIES' SPONSORS & SUPPORTERS

\*\*\*\*\* *They support us, please support them* \*\*\*\*\*



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 (03) 8549 9999



U6/3b Newlands Road  
 Reservoir, VIC 3073  
 Phone: [03 9448 8300](tel:0394488300)



Unit 2, 10-14 Capital Drive, Grovedale  
 Ph: [03 5243 0522](tel:0352430522)



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*THE WONTHAGGI WOODY* is the monthly  
 newsletter of Wonthaggi Woodcrafters Inc.

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