

ArtSpace

W o n t h a g g i



Newsletter #13

January 2016

We are in the midst of our silly season and ArtSpace has never been busier. We are thrilled to have been able to sell a number of pieces by our artists – and especially popular has been work done by our wood crafters. Keith Hulsman's Jonah and the Whale has been especially popular. And if you have a few bob to spare after Christmas – have a look at this magnificent hand carved rocking horse in the window.



Kaye Hatton is our new Treasurer as well as being Treasurer for the Wonthaggi Woodcrafters. She is this month's featured artist.

Featured Artist – Kay Hatton

Well she had to marry him really. After all he owned a lot of power tools. And so began a partnership made in heaven! Kaye met her husband John at a time when she had decided to get serious about making wooden objects.

From age six, Kaye had always loved building things out of wood. Growing up on a farm on King Island she built billycarts and stick horses and even made her first tee pee with tea tree poles trussed together with baling twine and covered with blankets so she could camp out under the stars.



It was an unusual past time in an era when boys did wood work at school and girls did home economics. There was no opportunity taking wood work on as a subject at school but that didn't stop her passion. When she left school and as a sole parent she would go scavenging and find pieces of timber that she would use to create rustic wooden furniture to fill in the gaps of a spartan house.

Her first effort was made out of timber from an old lounge chair along with some pieces of Tasmanian oak from which she crafted to a coffee table which she had for many years.

She had no shed and so had to use the only outside covered area – her verandah – before her sister took pity on her and let her use her shed. So in return Kaye repaired her sister's furniture and made her an outdoor table. It was so heavy it may have been made out of marble. Where it was built – it stayed.



And then she met John. They would head off to wood shows. (So romantic!!!) "I loved to see what new toys there were for me to use," says Kaye. After they married they moved to this district where they didn't know a soul. And so, given their shared interest in wood, they joined the Wonthaggi Woodcrafters. John was always keen on turning timber whereas Kaye was more interested in pyrography (or poker work as it used to be called) as well as making of rustic furniture. But one day ... John headed off to a bowls match ... and the rest is history. Kaye says, "I had been watching John turn the wood and I thought 'I'm going to have a go at that.'" Her first effort was a lidded container which she has kept all these years.



Before Turning

Within two years of joining the club, John and Kaye were on the committee. At the time there were around 40 members and Kaye was only one of two women. Now the membership has doubled and there are 15 women members.



After Turning



Since starting to wood turn, Kaye now looks at trees differently. She has come to appreciate each different timber's qualities.

She literally shudders when she describes how some people think of yellow box as great firewood. From raw product to a tactile piece of finished work there is nothing better she believes.

The Club is lucky that many people now know about them and will offer them timber for nothing. With tongue in cheek, Kaye tells me that, "Good wood doesn't just grow on trees you know." Her favourite style is to turn timber which has a big natural edge into interestingly shaped platters. She calls it 'turning a shadow,' which for me raises such an evocative picture.

She proudly shows me her hands demonstrating that she still has all her fingers intact. She has now joined a furniture making class where she is made to learn to build furniture as they did in the old days without the aid of mechanical tools. "I failed mortice and tenon 101", she laments.

But she won't give in. I think she plans to outdo her fellow woodworkers. One is in his early 90s and still going strong and another in his 80s. "But they don't have all their fingers!!!".



The Wonthaggi Woodcrafters Club have a pop up shop at 27 McBride Street, Wonthaggi until just after the New Year where they have hand made pieces with not a Made in China sticker or a toy needing a battery anywhere in sight. There are so many varieties including scroll saw work, pyrography, turning and laminate work. Or, of course, you can always see Kaye's work at ArtSpace throughout the year. She'll be there – with all her fingers attached!

No better way is there to learn to love Nature than to understand Art ... the boy who sees the thing of beauty which a bird on the wing becomes when transferred to wood or canvas will probably not throw the customary stone.

Oscar Wilde

PSYou are invited to Ken Griffith's exhibition on Sunday 17th January from 2pm to 4pm. You are promised the most diverse exhibition you are likely to see in one artist. Drinks and nibbles and great conversation ensured.

PPS And pencil in John Mutsaers and Susan Hall's joint exhibition 11 Feb – 7 March and the opening is, Saturday 13th February 2-4pm.

The Last Word

A woodworker is applying for a job and must answer three questions!

Here's your first question," the foreman said. "Without using numbers, represent the number 9."

"Without numbers?" The woodworker says. "Dat is easy," and draws three trees.

"What's this?" the foreman asks.

"Ave you got no brain? Tree and tree and tree make nine," says the woodworker.

"Fair enough," says the foreman. "Here is your second question. Use the same rules, but this time the number is 99."

The woodworker picks up the picture that he has just drawn and makes a smudge on each tree. "Ere you go."

The foreman scratches his head and says, "How on earth do you get that to be 99?"

"Each of da trees is dirty now ! So it's dirty tree, and dirty tree, and dirty tree. Dat is 99."

"All right, last question. Same rules again, but represent the number 100.

"The woodworker stares into space some more, then he picks up the picture again and makes a little mark at the base of each tree, and says, Ere you go. One hundred."

The foreman cries out. "You must be nuts if you think that represents a hundred!"

The woodworker leans forward and points to the marks at the base of each tree, and says, "A little dog come along and crap by each tree. So now you got dirty tree and a turd, dirty tree and a turd, and dirty tree and a turd, which make one hundred...."