

Stephen Mackay

Confident learners in the making...

Course Title

Rustic Sculpture or *'how to have fun with logs'*

Course outline

Come and learn the 'how to' in this unique way of reconstituting logs into lovable artefacts. Have fun using a wide range of traditional woodworking tools whilst you creatively fashion something for your garden. Understand principals of sustainability the fun way.



Courses detail

This is a 'must do' course for all experiential learners; minimal academic study, maximum 'hands-on'. All tools will be provided. No prior knowledge or experience is required.

The intention is produce your own wooden sculpture to take home. We will start with a brief outline of the process where your initial design layout will be formulated.

Thereafter access to an outdoor area would be helpful. There you will be guided in the safe use of a traditional wood working tool set and the process of construction.

Skills to be developed

All courses are designed to ensure that you achieve some level of mastery with minimal instruction and maximum hands-on experience. The success of these practical courses will be as a result of the full engagement of your physical senses along with your mind. Whichever course you undertake it will be an opportunity to expand your understanding of how you process instruction.

This particular course will offer you the opportunity to develop a broad range of personal or soft skills and in addition, specifically to,

- Acquire a basic understanding of construction,
- Learn to use a limited range of traditional woodworking tools and techniques, practicing physical strength and co-ordination in the process (fine and gross motor skills),
- Develop an alternative means of creative expression,
- Make decision about shape and form,
- Understand principals of sustainability.

You will also be invited to take part in the risk assessment for any process you are involved in, highlighting specific tools and equipment as appropriate.

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**Time frame**

Minimum 3 hours

Course numbers

Tuition is offered individually but small group sizes can be arranged.

Photos/web link

Take a look at the following [weblink](#) to see numerous examples of what has been achieved by a wide range of students. Note that these pictures are designed to raise your awareness of what is possible and not to raise any expectation that something similar will be produced. Any outcome will be the result of the shapes and forms identified within the given woodpile and limited by the time available.

Materials, background reading list, essential equipment required

None except a small supply of green wood i.e. trees that have been recently felled and are still oozing sap. Dry firewood will not do. The key to success is variety in size and shape which will offer the greatest chance for you to exercise your creativity. Please ask for guidance when booking.

Please ensure clothing worn is not so precious that a little dust and dirt is a problem.

Brief resume of tutor

In the last twenty years I have developed a successful career in teaching, where I have led a number of initiatives in the special needs sector. I am a qualified, secondary trained, Design & Technology teacher. Much of my work is outdoors, constructing things that change the lives and the surroundings of my students. In 2012, I was recognised as one of New Zealand's 'Most Inspiring Teachers'. My teaching career has consolidated my experience in leadership, management, data analysis, logistics and Health and Safety.

For the past five years I have provided my own brand of specialised technical support to schools and kindergartens. I provide a range of educational services designed to develop confident learners. Specifically I work with staff and children to nurture a broad range of competences through a holistic approach to the design and build process.

Much of my success is grounded in thirteen years of industrial experience across a number of disciplines where I achieved chartered status in mechanical design and production. I have also studied green woodworking in the UK and am a practicing 'Bodger' with my own pole lathe.

In 2005 I took six months unpaid leave of absence to provide humanitarian support in Thailand after the Tsunami. There I led an international workshop project that involved locals in the production of their own furniture (Thaikea).

In short I have a passion for making things. I am happiest when surrounded by those that share my passion.

Course cost

For details regarding price see my [Pricing Policy](#)

Note that materials and travel costs may apply

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