

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 playground or garden. Get to grips with how to use this craft to sow the seed of sustainability and assist your children in developing a broad range of competencies whilst having a whole heap of fun.



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 or use in your kindergarten as an exemplar. You may work individually or collaboratively in small groups (the choice is yours).

We will start with a brief outline of the process which will require access to some form of media presentation equipment. Here 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.

Time frame

Minimum three hours

Course numbers

Maximum 6

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.

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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 eighteen 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 (Thaieka).

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

Course cost

\$500 plus GST (this is a total cost for up to 6 participants)

Travel costs may apply

A small quantity of wooden dowel may also be used which will be charged at cost to the centre.

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