

**ILLAWARRA WOODWORKERS
GROUP INCORPORATED
PO Box 121 Corrimal NSW 2518**

April 2011 NEWSLETTER

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|------------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| President | David Lipscombe | Oak Flats |
| Vice-president | Tony Sirotich | Figtree |
| Secretary | Mal Stewart | Thirroul |
| Treasurer & P. Officer | William Perry | Cordeaux Heights |
| Coordinator (Organ.) | Ric Funnell | Fairy Meadow |
| Coordinator (W'shop) | Frank Pynenburg | Corrimal |
| Coordinator (W'shop) | Pat Keefe | Towradgi |
| Back-up Coordinator | Ken Smith | Thirroul |
| Coordinator (Sales) | Keith Guy | Unanderra |
| Librarian | Kevin Parker | Woonona |
| Newsletter | John Cashman | Fernhill |

Events Coming Up

13 April, 7pm Annual General Meeting

Supper Roster: Rick Funnell and Roy Thomas

4 May 5.15pm Committee Meeting

11 May, 7pm Club Meeting

Supper Roster: Terry Elkins and Tony Sirotich

15 -17 June Sydney Wood Show

**SHOW and TELL
In February**

Frank Pynenburg showed another segmented vase he turned, made of white cedar, Huon pine, silky oak and other timbers

Peter Hansen showed a natural edged bowl and vase. Peter further showed several bowls and vases made from an 80 year old mulberry tree which he donated to the club. Thanks Peter.

In March

Pat Keefe has had five weeks off work and got stuck into some turning. He showed a dish from osage orange, two large bowls turned from Queensland maple and two small bowls turned from black-heart sassafras. Pat donated the three smaller bowls to the club sales. Thanks Pat.

Terry Elkins, now in semi-retirement, and with a bit more time for his workshop showed a spectacular leaping swordfish, an Intasa project made from numerous woods of different colours and grains. Terry has also tried his hand at pyrography and showed a detailed picture of the paddle-wheeler 'Marion'

Denis Hamilton showed some miniature cupboards and bookshelves, complete with tiny books, which would proudly adorn any doll's house.

John Totenhofer showed a hinged box made of Queensland sandalwood. The lid of the box was left with a natural edge.

WORKSHOPS

The **Boxmaking** group, led by Bill Perry, will continue their workshops on each third Wednesday evening of the month, starting at 6.30pm, or 6pm if you like a cup of tea first.

Saturday Workshops are to continue as usual, now making items for the Bulli show, and with the last Saturday of each month set aside for individual projects.

LEASE for CLUB WORKSHOP

Our President and Treasurer recently met with Mr John Thorn, the Principal of Fairy Meadow Primary School, regarding the renewal of our lease. Mr Thorn also inspected the somewhat cramped layout of our workshop. He personally is happy to have the club in the school grounds. He regards it as a plus for the school that club members are around on Saturday mornings and on occasional evenings, and is happy to extend our lease on a 12 month annual basis.

Extension to Club Workshop Mr Thorn could also see our need to create more workspace. There are however a couple of hoops to go through before the Education Department will approve our extension. As well as making a model of the proposed extension Rick Funnell has now drawn up plans for this extension to lodge with the Department. Thanks Rick.

Extension. When the plans are approved we will have the rest of this year to build the extension. The Grant we have received for the extension only applies for year 2011. Bill Perry has volunteered to look after the paperwork involved, (Thanks Bill) **but we will need a Project Manager and plenty of volunteers to complete the work.** To avoid interference with the school, most of the work will have to be done in school holidays

NEW CONSTITUTION

The new Constitution, as required by the NSW Government was accepted last month with no objections, except for that of a canny Scot who seized a chance to throw a spanner in the works. He however was overruled by the vast majority. Special thanks to Bill Perry who did all the spadework to get our constitution into good shape.

Thirroul Seaside Festival

The skies were overcast and the weather cool for most of the weekend, but this did not deter crowds coming to the Seaside Festival this year. Organizer, Doug MacKinnon, said it was a great way to celebrate the Festival's 21st birthday. Club sales were pretty rewarding, especially as our beach site on Sunday was hurriedly put together because of construction work to the surf club. Club members put on a fine display of items, demonstrating the art of turning, as well as encouraging sales. Special thanks to Mal Stewart who once again did all the running around and ensured that we had good sites.

The raffle for Keith Guy's wonderful rocking horse, Trigger, was finally drawn and Trigger went to Mrs Fay Braithwaite. It's said that half the children in her street are queuing up to ride Trigger. Before moving to his new stable Trigger was on display at two Seaside Festivals, Bulli Show and a couple of other events. And Trigger raised a fine lot of cash in ticket sales for the club. Many thanks Keith !

Overall the club did well financially at the Seaside Festival, and interestingly more money came in on Sunday rather than Saturday. Interestingly, of the receipts for the weekend, 41% came from the Trigger raffle; 29% from general sales; 18% from the \$2 box; and 12% from the Thomas Tank Engine raffle.

OOPS !

A doctor on TV said the way to achieve inner peace is to finish all the things you have started. So I looked around the house to see things I'd started and hadn't finished. I managed to finish off a bottle of Merlot, a bottle of Chadony, a bodle of Baileys, a butle of wum, tha mainder of bot Prozic and Valiumimin scriptins, the res of the cheesecake, an a box a chocletz! Yu haf no idr how fablus I feel rite now !

Major Refit Sydney Forest Centre

The Visitor Centre at Cumberland State Forest, in Sydney's northwest has undergone a major facelift. The manager of public programs, Joanna Bodley, said 'The centre guides people through the different aspects of forest management and timber production. There is a focus on the journey of plantation timber from the forest to the many uses in people's homes.

Interactive elements include short DVDs on carbon storage in wood products, a self service computer terminal, and numerous activities for children, like the forest touch table and the forest to frame maze. The centre is open seven days a week from 8.30am to 4.30pm. Cumberland State Forest is located at 95 Castle Hill Road, West Pennant Hills.

Tim Liston *Bush Telegraph Magazine*

Committee News

Much of the last meeting was spent considering ways to get our extensions under way. While we haven't received the final OK from the Department of Education, Bill Perry insisted that unless we get started pronto, the scheme could collapse. The double restriction is that 1) we have to fit most of the work into school holidays, and 2) unless we finish before the end of the year we could lose the two grants we have obtained. Bill has done the paperwork, and Rick has drawn up a plan and made a model, but we do need an Organiser-Project Manager !!!

The Committee considered some names of members to receive the Bill Body Trophy. All have given sterling service to the club and are fine craftsmen. The final choice was left to the President and the Secretary.

The possibility of electing another life member of the Club was also discussed, and what sort of recognition-award should this entail.

Kieth Guy was encouraged to price materials for the club to buy and for a team to build another 'Trigger.' at the Saturday workshops. Rick Funnell also was encouraged to organize a team to make double-decker buses on Saturdays too !.

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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

At this meeting (13 April) there will be various reports of the year's activities, and the current Committee will retire and all positions on the Committee will be up for grabs. Have you thought of serving the Club in this way ?

SOFT LANDING!

Allan Morrison from Soft Landing, a subsidiary of Mission Australia, came along to our February meeting and explained to us what Soft Landing is all about.

Soft Landing collects old mattresses direct from residences (at \$17 a pop), from Council pickups, and from Sydney too. Soft Landing employs young out-of-work men to break down and recycle the mattresses. The young chaps are trained and work for a year at Soft Landing and then are found work in the main stream. The workers are divided into three groups: stripping down the mattresses; fork lift and truck driving; and general labouring.

Everything is recycled. Mattress covers are cleaned and reused. The underlay foam is shredded and made into carpet underlay by Dunlop. The spring steel bases are broken down locally and wood bases are broken down and are available for woodworking clubs and Men's sheds.

As well as helping the young men this all is a great benefit to the environment, and is far better than the dumping of old mattresses into landfill.

Our President thanked Mr Morrison for his informative talk and presented him with a very nice turned pen. This particular pen was donated by Keith Guy. Thanks Keith

Contributed by Rick Funnell

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HOME AMONG THE GUM TREES

'But from the gardens my heart will always wander off into the trees; the improbable and godly boabs and ghost gums, green figs, mountain ash Antarctic beech, cork oaks, red river gums, myalls coolabahs, bull kauris, hoop pines turpentines and ponderosas that populate Richard Allen and Kimball Baker's *Australia's Remarkable Trees*. And my heart, which will not give itself up to a garden, belongs to all 850 varieties of eucalypts – the boxes, ironbarks, stringybarks scribbly gums, ashes, bloodwoods, angophoras, spotted gums and all the rest of them – that make up 95% of Australia's forests and have found a way to prosper in every habitat except the driest desert and the wettest rainforest.

There is something ineffably Australian about a tree that sheds its bark and its limbs, but refuses to shed (at least in one autumnal hit) its leaves; a tree that seems like the same tree wherever you find it, but hardly ever is, a tree that travels the world and makes a shapely nuisance of itself wherever it lands; a tree that thrives on drought and cultivates fire and has 10,000 uses.

All of which is exhaustively detailed in John Wrigley and Murray Fagg's *Eucalypts: A Celebration*, a book so large that they must have felled a blue gum forest to print it.'

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Mark Tredinnick author of *The Blue Plateau*,
in a book review SMH 5,6 March 2011

OOPS!

- * When tempted to fight fire with fire, remember that the Fire Department usually use water.
- * A bank is a place that will lend you money if you can prove that you don't need it.

Milton-Ulladulla BC Woodworkers *Woodchips*
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Common Workshop Tools (Continued from last month)

TWO TON ENGINE HOIST: A tool to test the maximum tensile strength of everything you forgot to disconnect.

PHILLIPS SCREW DRIVER: Normally used to stab the vacuum seals under lids or for opening old style paper-and-tin oil cans and splashing oil on your shirt; but also as the name implies, to strip out Phillips screw heads.

STRAIGHT SCREW DRIVER: A tool for opening paint can, that sometimes can be used to convert common screws into non-removable security screws.

PRY BAR: A tool used to crumple the metal surrounding that clip or bracket you needed to remove in order to replace a 50 cent part.

HOSE CUTTER: A tool used to make hoses too short.

HAMMER: Originally employed as a weapon of war, the hammer nowadays is used as a kind of divining rod locating the most expensive parts adjacent the object we are trying to hit.

UTILITY KNIFE: Used to open and slice through the contents of cardboard cartons delivered to your front door; works particularly well on contents such as leather seats, vinyl records, liquids in plastic bottles, collector magazines and rubber or plastic parts. Especially useful for slicing work clothes, but only while in use.

ARC WELDER: An electrical device used for burning holes in sheet metal car bodies and for blinding yourself when you forget to flip your face shield down when striking an arc.

TIRE IRONS: Used for busting your fingers and knuckles while you pinch your new inner tube full of holes.

DAMMIT TOOL!: Any handy tool that you grab and throw across the workshop while yelling 'Dammit!' at the top of your lungs. It is also, most often, the next tool that you will need.

Contributed by Bill Perry

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