

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

MAY 2007 NEWSLETTER

President	David Lipscombe	Oak Flats
Secretary	Mal Stewart	Thirroul
Treasurer	William Perry	Cordeaux Heights
Librarian	Kevin Parker	Woonona
Newsletter	John Cashman	Fernhill

Events Coming Up

9 May. 7pm Club Meeting

6 June 5pm Committee Meeting

13 June 7pm Club Meeting

15-17 June Sydney Wood Show

AGM Elections !

David Lipscomb was re-elected as President the club AGM last month. So too was Mal Stewart as the Secretary, Bill Perry as the Treasurer, Kevin Parker as the Librarian and John Cashman as the Newsletter Editor. The positions of Public Officer and Coordinators were not filled, and on a motion were held over.

Special thanks to the retiring members of the Committee, Bill Body, Peter Hansen and John Parker who have all served on the Club Committee for many, many years. Bill particularly has served as President, Vice President and Coordinator. It was during Bill's term as President that the peppercorn lease on our

present clubhouse was negotiated, and under his leadership, the then old disused toilet-block was transformed into the present clubhouse. We owe an eternal debt to Bill, Peter and John for all the time, energy and work they have put into the club for many years, between the three of them this has amounted to around 50 years. We salute them all !

Secretary's Report for 2006 -07

The year started off somewhat slowly. Bulli Show was our first event for 2006. We put on a good display and had good sales. Some members got some well rewarded results with items they had in the show competition. The second event was our dispay at the old Court House at Belmore Basin. It was a very gloomy weekend weatherwise, but plenty of members attended. Once again, sales were good and we made money on the BarBQ. (The BarBQ sales were particularly helped on the Sunday as our dispay coincided with the Sydney to the Gong bike ride which finished at Belmore Basin.) The last big event was the Thirroul Seaside Festival. It was again a successful weekend for the club. The display this time was good, but could have been better.

We ran several Tuesday night workshops but they stopped due to lack of support by the members. We also started Saturday morning workshops to make items for the Thirroul Seaside Festival, but not projects could be completed. Again, particularly early on, support was lacking. I pay particular tribute to John McMahon, who despite having a handicap turned up every Saturday and worked all day. I also congratulate Ken Smith for his efforts throughout the year in keeping the \$2 full. Ken's items in the \$2 box proved so popular at Thirroul that this box is now empty.

We have a lot of skillful people in the club, and I would like to

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see groups formed to promote these skills to other club members, whether it be on a weekly or monthly basis. In other words I would like to see the club house open much more than it is at present. Dave and I, with other members, work hard to raise funds and ask organizations for sponsorship, but this is pointless if the equipment sits here and collects dust and cobwebs.

Mal Stewart – Secretary

SHOW and TELL March

Bill Perry is making a desk with some curved legs. He showed us a jig he has made to cut these legs. Very innovative!

Ken Smith, not content with making dozens and dozens of items for our \$2 box brought along some toilet paper holders he had turned, and donated them too !

Bill Body showed us a ‘laminated on the skew’ rolling pin he had designed and turned. Bill explained how he had come up with the 5 degree angle for the skew: a very interesting exercise. Bill challenged other turners to have a go themselves.

Rick Funell showed us one of his mirrors surrounded by camphor laurel carved edges and with a heron standing by. Rick carved the edges over some months – a fabulous piece – and presented it to his brother Robert.

SHOW and TELL April

Bill Hedley unveiled an amazing ‘Royal Victorian Queen Clock’ scroll sawn from 9mm thick Queensland Maple. It is an extraordinarily complex design (Bill is not one to go for the simple things of life) and really quite amazing. Bill said it is a copy of one made in the 17th or 18th century when it would have been sawn out with a fret saw. Bill normally cuts out his clock pieces (14 of Bill’s clocks in the house when I visited him) from MBF finished with a veneer but this was a different venture.

Milan Oder showed us a huge bowl he turned from a red gum burl. He cut the burl from a tree some 30 years ago at Cobar. The bowl weighs about 9k, but the burl had originally weighed about 70 k.

Barry Long

Entering Barry's workshop is like entering a cave of wonders: tools, drawings, plans, timber, books, finished articles under wraps are everywhere, plus the cat, Buffy, and the dog, Angel. But Barry is happy sitting amongst his tools and equipment, working away, or planning his next job. It doesn't take long to realize that Barry's jobs take a bit of planning, because he will often work away on them for weeks, months, even years.

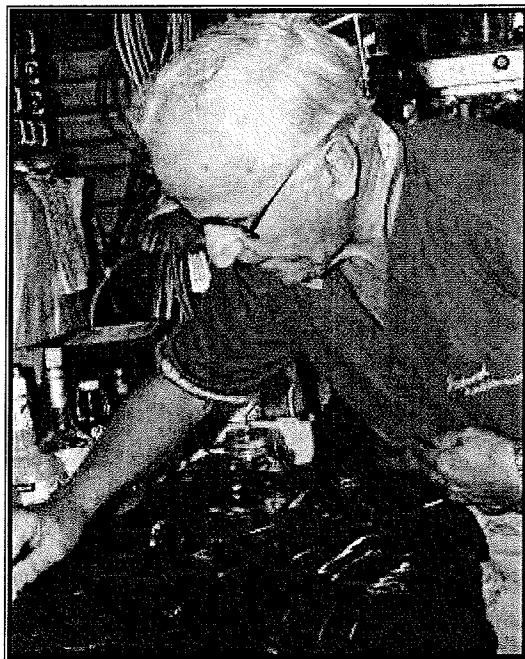
Barry doesn't take shortcuts, or do things the easy way. He could be called 'Mr Dovetail' for some of his jobs, a netball ball, jewelry boxes, dining table etc, have dozens, sometimes hundreds of dovetail joints in them: straight dovetails, curved dovetails, angled dovetails, lines of diminishing dovetails, and all crafted by hand. Quite amazing! Nor does Barry quail before big jobs. His elliptical dining table has an 8" diameter central post with four solid carved legs coming from it. It's no lightweight. He is currently making drawings for a carving job on a huge piece of cedar: 1.2m by 2.5m long and 16cm thick. Incredible! He remarked, 'It will keep me going for a while.'

As a youngster Barry was interested in the work of a local cabinet maker, Harry Owen. Barry often called in to chat, learn from, and help him. Barry's French polishing comes from that time with Harry. His first apprenticeship was with a carpentry firm, but he was sacked after a few months. They said he was too slow on 'roofwork.'

Soon after, by chance, he found a roll of money by the roadside. L986! His dad reported it to the Police. It had been lost by the Town Clerk, Bill Batt. He rewarded Barry by allowing him to select a lot of new fishing gear, and got him a job in the Council's engineering section. Then after a couple of years

Barry was transferred to W M Dyers, a plumbing company. Barry stayed with them for 27 years. Barry had his plumber's ticket, but wasn't licensed to go on his own. At one stage Dyers sent him to Goulburn to open a branch work. While he was there, a TAFE teacher he met made sure he got the necessary License qualifications. Barry was no youngster by then, but he finished as Apprentice of the year for NSW.

In 1994, Barry was doing a job on a roof, but woke up in hospital. It seems that the battens under the tiles had given way, and he had crashed through the roof down onto the concrete floor, to be very seriously injured, and was hospitalized. He eventually recovered but it was the end of his plumbing days. He then had to fight to get some compensation. In the end, he got some, though the lawyers took a good swag of it.



So he turned back to woodwork, his first interest. Barry has entered and won many competitions with his various creations. In a large notebook, he sketches and makes notes on what he has made and wants to create. Because he goes in for intricacies, he frequently sketches how the various parts will work or fit together. Barry is both a member of our

Club and of the Kiama Woodworker's Club.

Barry's other great interest is orchids. As well as his woodshed there are three large greenhouses in their backyard which Barry built. They are filled with hundreds of orchids which he grows and cultivates. Barry has won numerous prizes for his orchids and is now an official judge for the NSW Orchid Society

Barry is married to Margaret, who is also a great gardener and loves their pets. They have three children, Elizabeth, Lynette and Lenny, and seven grandchildren. Pinned to the wall of his shed is a nice poem one of his granddaughters wrote about her granddad.

When Barry was a young fellow, Harry Owen was making some furniture for a man at Meroo Meadow. Harry told Barry that this family had a daughter who was 'a nice looking bird.' Some time later, Barry was returning from a holiday, and caught the train from Sydney. By chance he was with another family on the train and they got talking. He asked the daughter of this family to go out with him, and she agreed. Later the girl, named Margaret, took him back to her home at Meroo Meadow. In their dining room Barry recognized the furniture that Harry Owen had made, and realized that Margaret was the girl Harry Owen had told him was the 'nice looking bird.' Of course, as good romances go, Barry and Margaret married. Small world! Margaret worked as a florist for five years, and helps out at the local florist now and then.

BIG CLEANUP! Good to see plenty of members helping with the big cleanout of the club's workshop. Yes! We threw out quite a bit of timber that 'might have come in handy' but our clubroom is not large, and we were being swamped for space.

Other Events coming up –

2 – 30 July Wollongong Library. Two showcases of items

1 August Display table with National Trust at Old Court House

11,12 August Club Sales and Demonstration - Old Court House

7-9 September Canberra Wood Show

15,16 Bulli Show. Sales and Demonstration

THANKS.

Looking back over the year, we must particularly record our thanks to our three primary executive officers, Dave Lipscum, Mal Stewart, and Bill Perry, who have put in plenty of work to keep the club going and to generate income to cover our bills.

Thanks also to those who have helped out in various other ways, contributing to our various Displays and to Demonstration and Sales days, to the workshops, to those who have got up during the Show and Tell sections of the club meetings, and done just that, and not least to those who have volunteered (or sometimes been volunteered!) to provide for supper at our club meetings.

Thanks!

AHH!

What is the difference between turning on your own lathe and turning during a demonstration ?

The main difference is that it doesn't work when you are turning at a demonstration!

AHH Yerk!

Treasurer, Bill Perry, presented the Annual Financial Statement. Under new Government regulations this now does not have to be audited. In round figures our income was \$3,240, while our expenditure was \$2,370. Of the income \$1,040 was from club fees, \$1,190 from sales to the public and club members and

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\$500 in sponsorship from Illawarra ITEC Training and Development, and some \$500 from various other sources.

Bill warned however, that while our bank balance at 31 March stood at \$2610 this would barely cover last year's expenses. Among the expenses last year were Club room maintenance and repairs \$310, Exhibition expenses \$240, Insurance \$360, Newsletters \$180, Electricity and Phone \$260, plus numerous other accounts. No money was spent on tools and equipment, or on books for the Library.

Good Grief !

Old Jake had cut firewood by hand with a saw going on 50 years, he averaged four cords a day. His son was home from college and watching him work remarked, "You could cut 10 cords if you bought yourself a chainsaw."

"Not interested in those new fangled things," Jake responded. His son returned to college and Jake began to think that maybe the young guy was right. His old body seemed to ache more and more at the end of the day. He went into town and bought a brand new top of the line chainsaw.

The first couple days were not very productive, he only cut one cord each day, by the third day he had cut 3 cords but was dead tired. "This is not working, " he thought to himself, "My son said I could cut 10 cords a day. I'll take this stupid thing back." He went to the hardware store and complained about his lack of production. "The blade seems a little dull," the clerk muttered, "but it's not that bad. Let's start it." as he pulled the starting cord.

"What the hell is that noise?" Jake hollered.