

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

JULY 2007 NEWSLETTER

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Secretary	Mal Stewart	Thirroul
Treasurer	William Perry	Cordeaux Heights
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Events Coming Up

2 - 29 July. Showcase in Wollongong Library

11 July. 7pm Club Meeting

1 August. Showcase with the National Trust, at the old Court House

8 August. 7pm Club Meeting

11-12 August. Club Sales and Demonstration, at the old Court House, Belmore Basin.

15-16 September. Sales and Demonstrations Bulli Show

Vale - Bill Body

It is with deep regret that we remember Bill Body, 20 June 1938 – 26 May 2007, longtime President of our club. We extend our heartfelt concern to his wife Pam, to his sons Jeff, Scott and Graham and to their families. Bill will be greatly missed.

Club Workshops

These will continue every Saturday morning, till just after lunch, through July, and until 4 August. We'll be working on children's chairs and tables and various items for sale particularly for our Belmore Basin Day and for Bulli Show.

Alternative workshops will be held on some Monday mornings at the Clubhouse. Check with Kevin Parker on 4284 4470.

Visitor. Nice to have Roley Volk, who was a long time Secretary of the Club call in last meeting. Roley has now been ensconced in Queensland for several years. Roley said his new club was neither short of funds nor equipment. To rub salt into our wounds, Roley was the one and only supporter of the Maroons, but that night, the Maroons won the second Origin game, and the series !

Show and Tell

Peter Hansen showed some vases and a nice little bowl he had turned 'green' from tee tree.

Kevin Parker, recently returned from a visit to China, showed some photos of magnificent pieces of furniture he saw in a museum in Shanghai. This furniture dated from the Ming and the Quing periods, 1400s and late 1800s and was extraordinary in beauty and complexity.

Tony Hancock showed a beautiful segmented bowl made primarily from silky oak and Tasmanian blackwood, with the segmented pieces separated by a dark veneer and the biggest circumference of the bowl decorated by two lines of patterned strip veneer. Really something.

Bill Body

This short tribute has been compiled from some of the things that Bill's sons, Jeff, Scott and Graham, said at Bill's funeral, and from reminiscences of Albert Seath, Vic Parkinson and others.



Bill Body has been the moving force behind our club, and its President for well over 10 years. He was the instigator of getting our clubhouse at a 'peppercorn lease' from the Department of Education, and worked to provide the club with good machine and hand tools. Though his official work was not in carpentry and joinery he became an expert at numerous forms of woodwork, and never stinted at passing on his knowledge and experience to others. Bill was a strong leader, and a great man, and will surely be missed.

Vic Parkinson and Bill were friends in Corrimal School High School. When Bill arrived, some of the kids were pronouncing Bill's surname as though it rhymed with Toady. 'It's not Boady,' Vic declared, 'His name's Body!' and to make sure they caught on Vic called Bill, 'Bodge,' and 'Bodge' he stayed to his mates through his schooldays.

Bill left school early, and was soon involved in a number of casual jobs. He and Pam met at a church fellowship and that

was the start of a lifelong relationship. Pam's father Alf Brown had a 'crane contract' with the steelworks, and for a while he got young Bill a job as a crane chaser. But Bill had numerous other jobs or sidelines. Bill was always interested in trucks, and big machinery. He wasn't tall, but was broad and muscular, but naturally seemed to gravitate to big things.

Bill played soccer at high school, and then took to and played hockey. When his sons were old enough he coached their hockey teams. In his younger days he was also a member of Towradgi Life Savers. Vic remembers one Saturday, 'Me and Bodge and a few of the boys were on duty. but the really good swimmers were away at a surf carnival. There was a rough surf and these young kids were getting swept out. We'd go and rescue them, but as fast as we hauled them in another kid would be swept out.. Later his sons recalled that Bill was there for them when they were in surf carnivals.

At one stage, Bill had a truck and was delivering cast swimming pools. But how to get them off his truck? Bill wasn't the man to shake his head and walk away. Problems were to be nuttered out! Bill worked out a way of propping up the pool casing to get it off the truck. Another job was driving his own concrete-mixing truck. Graham recalled that some where up the mountains' there is a 5 cubic yards pile of concrete where the engineer had made a mistake, so the concrete had to be dumped.' Bill also made pegs for surveyors, assembled aluminium doors and blinds, and later, when his sons were big enough to help, he took them out to gather bush rock to sell to gardeners and nurseries. Was it a labour of love? At one stage his boys threatened, 'We're gunna take you to court and sue you for using us as 'child labour'!

His sons said that Bill taught them to respect people and to learn to trust themselves and others. He let them make their mistakes, and helped them learn from those mistakes. Jeff said, 'He taught us to save in the old fashioned way.' Scott said, 'He taught us right from wrong, with occasional help from the strap,' though Bill was somewhat put out when his strap mysteriously disappeared. Of course his sons knew nothing about it! Bill also suffered in silence. Despite aches and pains from rheumatoid arthritis, and other things he didn't worry about himself or complain.

When did Bill started his interest in fine woodwork? He was always fixing things and inventing things. And what he made, he made to last. As well as his family, many people have items that Bill made, from small delicate jewelry boxes, to substantial furniture pieces. Later he attended various Master classes in turning and other woodskills, and soon passed these skills on to others. His determination for woodwork and the club soon propelled him into the club executive, where his ideas and thrust dominated. He wasn't a natural teacher, but he became multi-skilled and was glad to share ideas and skills with others. (One time when teaching about sharpening chisels he set things up so that he was talking to the wall and all we saw was his broad back! 'Hey, Bill. We can't see what you're doing! Can you turn around!') But Bill was very inventive. When we had a 'jigs' night at the club, a couple of members arrived with a jig or two, but Bill arrived with half a dozen jigs, from the simple to the complex.

Bill could be tough. He could be as stubborn as a mule! Some said that Pam was the only one who could bring Bill to heel. In an argument Bill tended to blast away, unchecked. But

at one difference at the club Bill didn't mince words in saying his piece. But by the next meeting he had thought things through and apologized. As he had publicly blamed, so he publicly apologized. That surely says something about the man

Bill took his family on camping holidays and instructed them in how to set up the camp. One of Bill's quotes at his funeral was 'I'm not a greenie, but I'm green.' Later, at a club meeting Bill overheard Albert Seath and Billy Parker talking about a trip they had made to the outback and their planning for a future trip. 'Can you count me in on that?' Bill wanted to know. 'But Bill. We are retired, but you are still working?' 'Don't you worry about that. I'll soon fix that up.' And fix it he did. So began several camping trips to the outback in four-wheel drives, out to the deserts – the great wildernesses – catching yabbies, cooking and sleeping under the stars, and yarns and yarns, and games of poker at night. Sure. It was a kind of 'Blokes nights out', but they all reveled in it.

Bill liked driving big vehicles, and to a large extent he was the driving force behind the club. His demands and standards were usually higher than most of us could match, but he was a great man, and will be greatly missed.



Good Grief!

Chap enters a shop and asks, ‘Can I have some Irish sausages?’

Assistant: ‘Are you Irish ?’

Chap: ‘If I asked you for Danish bacon, would you ask if I was Danish ?’ Assistant: ‘No!’

Chap: ‘And if I asked for some Palma ham, would you ask me if I was Italian ?’ Assistant: ‘No!’

Chap: ‘If I asked for a bottle of Chilli sauce, would you ask me if I was Mexican ?’ Assistant: ‘No!’

Chap: ‘Then why, when I ask for some Irish sausages, do you ask if I am Irish ?’

Assistant: ‘Because this is Bunnings!’ from *The Hobby Turner*

WWW Column (Woodies Widows Window)

(This appeared in our July 2003 News – edited by Bill Hopton)

I have so many stories about Bill (Hopton) and his woodworking prowess (or not) that it is difficult to know where to start. This story is about Anangote Timber. We were sort of near there – only 20 k away. And Bill says, ‘They have a great \$2 box. Let’s have a look!’ I’m still trying to work out how we ended up with 2 pieces of \$2 timber, a boat full of wood and came home \$150 poorer! The helpful guy at the yard told Bill to help himself to the scrap, so of course Bill needed no second invitation. By this time the boat was groaning and we had only spent \$4...and then it happened. He felt guilty about only spending \$4, so decided to buy some wood. Not just any wood of course – he HAD to have the zebrano. Of course at the moment it is sitting on top of the other 50 m³ of timber I am sure that is in our garage waiting for ‘inspiration’. No doubt one day he will get inspired and decide to use it. But by then, he will have buried it under another 50m³ he had to have and we will be living in a tent !

The Committee decided to inaugurate a **Bill Body Cup or Shield**. Albert Seath volunteered to pay for the timber necessary and Barry Long volunteered to work out a design.

Thanks to John Parker who has made and donated some 40 items, door wedges and diggers, for our \$2 box.

River Red Gum ! *Eucalyptus camaldulensis*, syn. *E. rostrata*

River red gum is also known as Red river gum, Murray red gum, Red gum and Queensland blue gum. It grows to a height of 20m, but has been known to reach heights of 35m and a trunk diameter as large as 2.5m.

Seasoning: If stabilized, then rough turned, further drying is usually required. But make sure that you leave sufficient thickness for the final turning, as shrinkage and twisting often occur. Wet turning is most effective when there is some figure in the wood. This will create differential shrinkage rates that may cause the wood to move and distort more.

Colouring: Colour varies considerably. The heartwood can change from a pink to soft red, or orange to a reddish brown. Like many woods, the heartwood is distinct from the sapwood.

From the *Tamworth Woodturners*.

HMAS WOLLONGONG

Enn Muller, now of the Kiama Woodcraft Group, has been commissioned by the Royal Australian Navy to carve battle honour shields. These shields are placed in the ships to remind crew members of battles and campaigns their ship, or it's predecessor, fought. Enn has already carved 12 shields for the Armidale class patrol boats. He has two more on order and others in the works. HMAS Wollongong has it's shield, from Enn, and was recommissioned last 29 December

The shields take Enn 6 to 8 weeks to carve, weigh 30-40 kg, and measure 1.2m by 85cm by 7cm thick, and the timber carved is New Guinea Rosewood.

Kiama Woodcraft Group