

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

**October 2006 NEWSLETTER**

President	David Lipscombe	Oak Flats
Vice President		
Secretary	Mal Stewart	Thirroul
Treasurer	William Perry	Cordeaux Heights
Public Officer	John Parker	Corrimbal
Coordinator	Peter Hansen	Corrimbal
Coordinator	Bill Body	Balgownie
Librarian	Kevin Parker	Woonona
Newsletter	John Cashman	Fernhill

**Events Coming Up**

- \* 11 October. Club Meeting
- \* 4,5 November. Belmore Basin Club Display and Sales
- \* 8 November. Club Meeting
- \* 10 December. Christmas Picnic at Sublime Point
- \* 13 December. Club Meeting

**SPONSOR!** Great news! Illawarra ITEC Training & Development, located at 1/336 Keira Street, Wollongong has sponsored our Club to the tune of \$500! Special thanks to their CEO, Tony O'Connor, and to Mal Stewart, our Secretary, for negotiating the sponsorship.

## **From The Committee.**

\***Mal Stewart** is donating a somewhat larger urn to the Club as our existing urn has sprung a leak. Thanks Mal! Mal also arranged for a bench to be built from some spare timber he had for the President and Secretary to sit on. As both these gentlemen are men of some weight in the club and community, the bench has been solidly built !

\* It was agreed to hold future Committee Meetings at the earlier time of 5.30pm on the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of the month. It is not true to say that this is because the Committee is feeling old and decrepit. Far from it. One of the senior Committee members said he wants to get home earlier to spend more time with his wife!

\* Life Members. It was agreed to see if our Life Members could be acknowledged more appropriately than at present

## **Ahh-Yaah-Eerk !**

Our Treasurer, Bill Perry, reported that our funds as of 25 September stand at \$2,363.79, with unpresented cheques amounting to \$60.00. Bill is feeling much better after the Sponsorship cheque from Illawarra ITEC, and the good sales of work at the Bulli Show

## **Show and Tell**

There was a plethora of items on show and tell last month.

**Barry Long** kicked off with neat gavel and stand. Part of the wood on the stand wasn't up to scratch, so Barry replaced that part and added some brass to both the stand and the gavel.

**Milan Oder** showed a skew like chisel he had sharpened for turning hard rubber rollers.

**Kevin Parker** showed an old CSIRO box of cards used to select a particular type of timber. Kevin got the cards in 1955, but they

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are probably much older. The cards have numerous holes round their edges and some of these holes have been cut away. After selecting the timber colour needed a skewer is threaded through the cards at the particular hole for that colour. The whole thing is then shaken and the cards of timbers not of that colour fall out. One then proceeds with the remaining cards selecting the holes for the particular characteristics of the timber needed, and so on. A relic of the pre-computer age.

**Rick Funnell** showed a large mirror with beautifully carved edges from camphor laurel - a rambling branch or vine winding and twisting around the mirror and an egret standing by. Some 3 months work.

**Ken Smith** showed some of his turned natural branch specimen vases. Ken described how in cutting the entrance to the vase top he cut one way going into the centre hole, then rolled the gouge, to cut the other way coming out. The resultant vases are quite distinctive. One particular 'chunky' one Ken described as 'modern,' but Audrey his wife, had a different description for it. She called it 'Bloody 'orrible!' It takes all types !

**Ken Hutchison** showed a nice small oval mounted clock from cedar. The oval setting was Ken's first (and last?) attempt at carving. And then the clock didn't work!! Ahh!!

**Terry Elkins** showed some of the 'works in progress' he had used in his carving demonstration the previous month. These included a backwoods impish farmer, a swordfish and a very jovial cow.

**Mal Stewart** showed a beautiful Jewelry Box with intricate scroll saw patterns in the sides – a result of Mal's recent interest in scroll sawing. A heart shaped mirror was set inside the lid. Mal took several attempts at cutting this heart. The particularly difficult part was the vee in the top of the heart. He finally solved it by drilling a fine hole in the base of the vee of the heart.

## **Don Gray**

Don Gray is a local boy. He grew up in Woonona and met Betsy, who grew up in Austinmer, at a local dance. They married and settled down in Russell Vale in '59. They still live in the same house, though they have added to the back of it and in the last couple of years, they have re-plastered and painted the lounge and dining room, making it very smart indeed. They have three adult children, Julie, Susan and David, and six grandchildren, two girls and four boys, and are happy with their families.

After school, Don completed his Fitter and Turner's apprenticeship at the steelworks, and a couple of years later moved to Illawarra Bricks, and later moved to the South Bulli Mine where he worked in the Maintenance workshop for 25 years before retiring.

Surfing, swimming, and the Surf Life Saving Association have been one of the great loves of Don's life. He swam, and rode his 16' board, and took part in R and R events in many competitions up and down the coast and inter-state. The family came along and enjoyed it too.

Don enjoyed many years of judging at surf carnivals all over Australia. In 1975, as the N.S.W. Education Officer, he and other lifesavers toured England, Ireland, Scotland, Wales and Portugal giving demonstrations and teaching the latest lifesaving methods. Some of those countries' methods were way behind Australia's. In Portugal, swimmers swam between two lines of buoys, with the rescuers in a rowing boat at the end of the buoys. The rescuers had a long pole with a rope loop on the end for them to lasso any swimmers in difficulty! While they were also in Portugal, a revolution started: shots rang out, they could

see guns on the roofs of buildings, but the peacemakers used to put flowers in the gun nozzles! A few years ago, Don was awarded the Order of Australia Medal for his ‘Service to Life Saving and the Community’ The NSW Governor, Marie Bashier, awarded him the medal at Government House. Congratulations Don!

When he retired, Don and Betsy had time to travel. They have had a couple of overseas trips, but they have really loved trips in the outback and NW Australia. They don’t have a four wheel drive (though one time, their old Peugot took them across the Nullabor Plain!) but they have often travelled as passengers in the four wheel drives of tour groups. One time they sailed from Broome up to Cockatoo Island through the Buccaneer Archipelago.

Don was retired before he thought about wood turning. He saw a demonstration somewhere, and thought, ‘I could have a go at that!’ His first lathe was a little Record, but it had an outrigger and Don made all kinds of things with it. He now has a 4-speed ‘Tough’ lathe, the precursor of the Woodfast range. Don turns lovely platters and bowls, and the various members of his family have his work for use and display. Don often turns large bowls, and silky oak is a timber he enjoys. Don often uses a Hot Melt Glue gun to hold the bowl to a template on a faceplate while he finishes the bottom of the bowl. Don has a couple of power tools, but his workshop is not crowded. As far as his tools are concerned, he is a minimalist, and keeps just enough tools to do the jobs he likes doing.

Don’s other interest is Gouldian Finches: lovely, spectacularly coloured little finches that normally live in warmer climes. Don’s father always had birds, mostly finches, and ‘like father,

like son'. Don is a member of the Illawarra Finch Club. He breeds finches, and currently, the flavour of the month is the 'Australian Yellow' Gouldian finch. It takes much work and patience to eventually get the hen and bird of the right configuration to breed together to produce an 'Australian Yellow'. Don also has to contend with cats and butcher birds that can reach surprisingly far into the cages. Don sells some finches, but it is not for money, but for the joy of having and breeding such beautiful birds.

Don is no extravert. He is quiet, generous and content. He and Betsy are very happy with their children and grandchildren, and with their travelling, when they can fit it in, and Don enjoys his swimming, turning and Gouldian finches, and also is a keen fisherman.

### **Bulli Show**

There was good weather and a good turnout at the Bulli Show this year. Organizers estimated that 10,000 people attended the show, an increase of 3,000 from last year. There appeared to be fewer stalls in the area where the club was set up, but sales of work totaled \$606. Bill Perry is smiling. Two children's table and chair sets (from Mal Stewart's Routing wokshops of some months ago) were sold too. Many thanks to those who helped with setting up, demonstrating and, packing up too.

### **Buy, Sell and Swap !**

\* Lindsay Smith, 4267 4879 has a number of lengths of 2<sup>nd</sup> hand decking available. Gratis ! She thinks the timber is either Brush Box or Jarrah. 50mm by 16mm by 2.5m lengths.

\* Bruce Keats has a large band saw for sale: 26" throat, 3hp 3 phase motor, but could be fitted with a single phase motor. Any reasonable offer accepted. 4274 2479

- \* Greg Smith on 0409 771 738 has various cedar planks, burls, veneers & root sections for sale. Also, sliced red gum burls
- \* We've been contacted by a lady, Olga, of 41 Barrack Ave, Barrack Point, who has her husband's old CMF 3 or 4 speed lathe for sale.

## **Oops !**

Larry LaPrise 1913 -2006. With all the sadness and trouble in the world at present, it is worth reflecting on the death of Larry LaPrise, who died recently. LaPrise, the man who wrote 'The Hokey Pokey,' died peacefully in his sleep at the age of 93. But the most traumatic part for his family was getting him into the coffin. They put his left leg in.. and then the trouble started!

\* An elderly gentleman who had hearing problems for years went to his doctor and was eventually fitted with hearing aids that greatly increased his hearing.

A month later he went back to the doctor for a check up. All was well. His doctor said, 'Your hearing is great now. Your family must be really pleased that you can hear again now.'

The elderly man replied, 'O, I haven't told them yet. I just sit around and listen to the conversations. I've changed my will three times already!'

## **Special Evenings ?**

Mal Stewart has suggested some kind of joint project in which different club members could share their particular expertise with others on the way to finishing the project. Any ideas ?

## **Bits and Pieces**

\* Several of our members went down to Kiama last month to join other Woodies in a turning workshop conducted by well known turner and author, Mike Darlow.

## **Boxes**

Last month Bill Body showed some of the numerous boxes that he has made. Bill had recently had a spell in St Vincent's hospital and his doctor had advised him to take it easy. Despite this hospitalization, Bill is a prolific craftsman in many areas. Bill showed us turned boxes, dovetail boxes, and unique boxes made from cedar, Huon pine, Western Red cedar, banksias nuts and several other timbers. One intriguing box was made from a half round log of cedar, with the bark still intact. Bill particularly emphasized the necessity of correct setting out. One can only say, 'Bill, you are a superb artisan!'

## **Circular Saws**

The circular sawbench has developed into a versatile machine capable of doing much more than ripping. Modern carbide tipped saws enable precise cuts with quite a good finish. Individual workers who lack the range of facilities of larger workshops may wish to use the saw for sawing tenons, rebating, grooving, deep cutting, and so on. Some of these operations may require the removal of the riving knife and possibly the crown guard. But unless the workpiece is adequately supported and effective alternate guarding is made, these operations are unsafe. So, whatever you do, do it safely !

## **Oops !**

A construction worker died suddenly in his sleep, as he entered the Pearly Gates trumpets blared. St. Peter approached him with his hand outstretched, " Congratulations, you are the oldest person ever to arrive here."

"There must be some mistake," the worker replied, " I am only forty years old."

" Impossible," St. Peter replied, " We added your time sheets up twice, and got 160 years both times!"