

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

**FEBRUARY 2010 NEWSLETTER**

President	David Lipscombe	Oak Flats	
Vice-president	Tony Sirotich	Figtree	
Secretary	Mal Stewart	Thirroul	
Treasurer	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	
Public Officer	John Parker	Corrimal	
Librarian	Kevin Parker	Woonona	
Newsletter	John Cashman	Fernhill	

**Events Coming Up**

**10 February: 7pm Club Meeting**

Supper Roster: Ken Hutchison and Colin Shaw

**3 March: 5.30pm Committee Meeting**

**6 March: Buzz in the Burg** Sales day at Helensburg Charles Harper Park

**10 March: 7pm Club Meeting**

Supper Roster: John McMahon and Denis Hamilton

**15 March: Seniors Week**

**27, 28 March: Thirroul Seaside Festival**

**SATURDAY WORKSHOP GUIDELINES**

**Bill Perry**

The income from sales of our woodwork items allows us to purchase materials we may need, pay the electricity bills and other workshop costs that are not covered by the membership fees.

This year, *as a trial*, we will open the workshop for one Saturday each month for members to do personal work. Hopefully, if you use these free days, you will also support the club workshop days.

Remember the purpose of the workshops is to:

1. Make items for the club. Items are either for sale to cover club costs or donated to various charities.
2. Provide an opportunity for learning and discussion between members.
3. Maintain and update the workshop facilities and machines.
4. Limited time to do your own work after the club work is completed.

Under these Guidelines, Saturday Workshops will continue on most Saturdays though not when the Club is demonstrating or has Sales at other events. In March this includes the 'Buzz in Berg' (6<sup>th</sup>), and the 'Thirroul Seaside Festival' (27<sup>th</sup>)

**AGM**

The Annual General Meeting of the Club will be held on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> of April in the Clubhouse at 7pm. There will be reports of the year's activities, and the Treasurer's Financial Statement. All positions on the executive and on the Committee will be declared vacant, and elections will be held.

**DAPTO SHOW and BUNNINGS**

Though the Club had a good position at the Dapto Show last month, (our first appearance there) sales were reported to be 'meagre.' Sales at the Bunnings day were also light but this was compensated by a massive sale of snags. Thanks to the faithful group of members who manned our stall at both locations and to their constant hot work on the BBQ.

## Iraqi Rabbito League Star!

Russell Crowe flew to Bagdad to watch a young Iraqi League player. Suitably impressed Crowe arranged for him to come to South Sydney and signed him up for a year. In a pre-season game the Rabbits are down 12-Nil against the Roosters with only 10 minutes to go.

The coach gave the young Iraqi the nod and in he went. The kid was a sensation: he scored three tries in 10 minutes, and Souths won the game. The fans went wild: players and coaches were delighted, and the media loved the new young star.

After the game, the player phoned his mother. "Hello Mum. I played for 10 minutes today, and scored three tries and we won. Everybody loves me, the fans, the media..."

"Wonderful," says his Mum, "But let me tell you about my day. Your father was shot and robbed in the street, your sister and I were ambushed and beaten, your brother has joined a gang of looters. And all this happened while you were having a good time!"

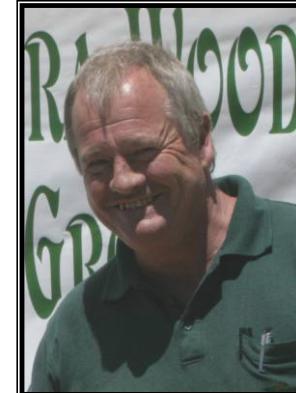
The young Iraqi was very upset. "What can I say, I'm so sorry!" "Sorry. You're sorry," says his mum. "It's your fault we moved to Redfern in the first place !!"

From Milton Ulladulla Woodchips July 2009 Newsletter  
*The Editor worked in Redfern in a part-time capacity a couple of years ago. He feels that good suburb is much maligned*

## Thirroul Seaside Festival.

Mal, our Secretary, is negotiating for us to rent a room in the new Thirroul Library for the Saturday (27<sup>th</sup> March) for Sales and Demonstrations. The location of a site, and the question of whether to exhibit on the Sunday has yet to be decided.

Grateful thanks to ILLAWARRA ITeC our great sponsor. ITeC provides Training and Development for Small Businesses and for the Unemployed too



## Dave Lipscombe.

The quietly spoken David Lipscombe has been President of the Club for a few years. He is also currently a joint holder of the club's Bill Body Trophy. Dave is noted for his calm manner, his commitment to everything involving the club, his helpful attitude to other woodworkers, and his "see-through" case.

Dave grew up a "bushy." His father was a water control officer on the Cordeaux and later the Avon dam, continually checking the water quality and controlling the amounts of chlorine and fluoride to be added. At Cordeaux there were several families and kids to play with, but at Avon there was only one other couple without kids. Dave had three sisters, but no mates. Then he was given an air rifle, and later, a small bore rifle. About a mile from the dam was the Malden railway, with a small siding for rail workers carts. There Dave found some small explosive caps that were taped to the line and exploded when a train came by to warn fettlers working on the line. But the young Dave used these caps as targets! Explosions in the forest! The first bird Dave shot was a currawong. The shot may have been a fluke as the bird kept flying for a while, but then it crash-dived into the dam. 'Dad! Dad! Quick.' Dave yelled. Quickly they rowed out to the dead bird, to get it out of Sydney's precious drinking water, but by the time they got there, Dave's 'kill' had sunk. (If you have ever had any problem with the taste of Sydney's water, see Dave!)

After finishing Primary (Mt Kiera) and High School (Kiera Boys High) Dave got an apprenticeship as an Electrical Fitter Mechanic with BHP. He stayed with BHP for a further four years after gaining his Certificate. In the meantime he had met and married Lesley. Dave and some of the young bloods used to go hear a band in Shellharbour on Friday nights and to Corrimal Leagues on Saturday

One Saturday night a bloke asked Dave if he would dance with his niece to stop another nuisance menacing ‘my young blond niece’, Dave thought this particular ‘young blond niece’ (she was underage) looked luscious, and didn’t hesitate to ask her to dance and then organize further dates.

They married and have two sets of twins (twins run in both families), Ben and Emma and then Matthew and Michelle. Ben and Emma have both married and have two children each, though Ben and his wife are now separated. Lesley is now CRO (Manager) of the Bendigo Bank at Shellharbour. Both Emma and Michelle work with disabled children, and last year Lesley completed a TAFE course in this area. She hopes to do some voluntary work with disabled children this year, and see how it goes.

When Dave finished at BHP, he and Lesley felt they needed a bit of space for a while. Dave went to Eden and got a job on a fishing trawler, the Eden Star. ‘It was bloody hard work.’ They sailed to South Australia a few times to catch tuna. Dave came back after four months and he and Lesley decided to stick together and make a go of it.

But his job at BHP had been filled. No luck there, so his next job was peat farming at Robertson. Then he got a job with an electrical contractor and worked on the coal loader, and later for Bisalloy Steels. But the electrical contractor went bust, and Dave was out of a job. He had got on well with the Manager at Bisalloy, and phoned him, looking for a job. Happily a position there became vacant a couple of days later.

Dave started at the bottom and gradually worked his way up, becoming acting Project Manager and then Maintenance Manager for Bisalloy. He has been there for 30 years. Bisalloy specialise in ‘Quench and Temper’ steel for high strength constructions and high-wear applications. Dave normally has about 10 blokes working for

him, but this can increase to 40 in periods of high demand. Two years ago Dave went to Brazil looking at high-tech machinery for Bisalloy. As well as the work, Dave and his offsider were wined and dined or tequilaed every day. Came the weekend, and they hoped for a rest, but ‘No No. The Boss, the Big Boss, insists you come and eat at his ranch. You must come. He won’t take no!’ So off they went to his ranch and another huge, hot dinner and with lots more Brazilian firewater! Dave came home for a rest!

*And woodwork?* I wanted to be a carpenter. I was always building with bits and pieces, bird cages and things, and whittling. I did a lot of whittling. But my Uncle Ray, who was a carpenter, talked me out of it. Years later I went to another woodworking club, but they were stand-offish: not my cup of tea. Then I tried this club and Bill Body, who was President, welcomed me with open arms. I learnt a lot from Bill. He could be rough on the outside. But he was very knowledgeable, a good teacher and a great woodworker. With hindsight I sometimes think he was training me.’

*What do you really like making?* ‘A lot of the time at the club you’re organizing, or making things for sale, or helping others, but what I really like is turning. Turning, shaping, creating!’

### **Character Study**

*As a rule the Editor seeks to avoid sexist and racist jokes, but this one slipped under his guard, and tickled his fancy.*

During a recent password audit, it was found that a ‘blonde’ was using the following password: MICKEYMINNIEHUEYPLUTO-LOUIEDEWIEGOOFEYDONALD.

When asked why she had such a large password she replied that she was told the password had to be at least eight characters long!

Milton-Ulladulla Bowling Club Woodworkers Woodchips Jan 2010

**Woodcarving.** The Woodcarving group is in abeyance at present.

## SHOW AND TELL

### (November 09)

**Barry Long** showed a very small ‘end plane’ which he had purchased recently. Good for those tricky cross grain jobs

**Pat Keefe** showed a nice bowl turned from huon pine.

**Milan Oder** showed a lampstand made from the root of a grass tree together with a nice handmade ‘Tiffany type’ lampshade.

### (December 09)

**Bill Headly** showed another intricately scrolled clock. This one Bill scroll-sawed from MBF finished with a maple veneer. Bill joked that painting the edges of the intricate MBF pieces took almost as long as the scroll-sawing.

## B- Double

At last December’s meeting the President happily reported that the B – Double made by club members and presented to Camp Quality had raised \$3,186 in a raffle. Dave warmly congratulated all those club members who had constructed and painted the B-Double. Camp Quality raises money to care for children with cancer, and to fund research into the cancer’s prevention.

## Billy Parker

Billy Parker, a Life Member of the Club recently sent a donation of \$50 to us. Thanks Bill. Billy retired and moved to Queensland 10 or so years ago. He was great friends with Albert Seath, Bill Body and other long time members, and wrote that he enjoined reading news of them, though time is taking its toll on all.

## Thanks

- to **Tony Sirotich** for the donation and erection of a neat glass-fronted wall cabinet in which to store our coffee mugs. Tony rescued it from a job he was working on.

- to **Ron Groves**, father of Michael, for various bits of trees, (jacaranda, cheesewood and macadamia) that he had cut down and stored for a few months.

## TREES and their WOOD

### Ian McLauchlin

An example of the evolutionary development in the Eucalypts is the Blue Gum group: large hardwoods of south-eastern Australia. (This does not include the Sydney Blue Gum *Eucalyptus saligna*) The major species is the Southern Blue Gum of South Gippsland, the Otway ranges, Wilson’s promontory and eastern Tasmania, given the name of *Eucalyptus globulus*. It is well known in the timber industry. There are three sub-species. They are *E.bicostata* in north-east Victoria and south-east NSW; *E.pseudoglobulus*, Gippsland Blue Gum; and *E. maidenii*, Maiden’s Gum. All have juvenile leaves which are sessile (without a stalk) and glaucous (blue). Later developing leaves lose the blueness, develop stalks and have a transition from broad and short to narrow and long in the truly adult leaves. Apart from Maiden’s Gum, adult leaves can be 30cm long. They are all smoothbarked and similar in appearance, but their flowers – the buds and mature fruit – are distinctly different, as indicated-

*E.globulus* - buds single and sessile

*E.bicostata* - buds in groups of three and are sessile

*E.pseudoglobulus*- buds in groups of three, but with a stalk

*E.maidenii* - buds in groups of seven but with a stalk

Being a tree of rapid growth, and with dense and hard wood it has been extensively planted overseas for timber production in South Africa, Egypt, South America and California. The popular business of growing wood for carbon credits on former farmland in the southern states of Australia is based on Blue Gum.

**The Wood.** The heartwood is a light yellow-brown with an open texture, commonly with an interlocked grain. Growth rings are usually distinct due to the denser latewood. Sapwood is a lighter colour and not easily distinguishable from the heartwood. Its air-dry density is 900kg/m<sup>3</sup> which is heavy and strong – so strong that Victoria’s former State Electricity Commission used only Blue Gum for its powerline cross-arms. It is not particularly durable and its sapwood, like many eucalypts, is subject to attack by Power Post Beetle, and it is difficult to season. It has been used extensively for house framing and general construction, but it is not liked in the industry because it is so hard. It is too hard to be a good craft wood.

From the newsletter of the Bendigo Woodturners Inc October 2008