

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

December 2012 NEWSLETTER

President	David Lipscombe	Oak Flats	
Vice-president	Mal Stewart	Thirroul	
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Coordinator (W'shop)	Pat Keefe	Towradgi	
Coordinator (Sales)	Keith Guy	Unanderra	
Librarian	Peter Hansen	Corrimal	
Coordinator (Training)	John Totenhofer	Balgownie	
Newsletter	John Cashman	Fernhill	

Events Coming Up

12 December, 7pm Club Meeting

Supper Roster: Frank Pynenberg

15 December. Christmas BBQ after this year's last workshop

9 January 2013, 7pm Club Meeting

Supper Roster: Mal Stewart

19 January 2013 Dapto Show

.SHOW and TELL

In October

Bernie Korent brought along several bowls he had turned for club sales. Thanks Bernie. Bernie also some pot-pourie holders of different and interesting shapes. Bernie has only recently come to turning but he both enjoys it and is prolific.

In November

Peter Hansen brought along a nice small vase turned from a branch of a mulberry tree and finished with Organoil

Frank Pynenberg showed a large platter and knife made from Sapele, Cedar and Silver Ash. Frank made these to enter a turning competition at Oyster Bay.

Pat Keefe showed four large bowls turned from Camphor Laurel and Elm. One of theses was finished with ten coats of Kunos oil and the others were finished with Danish oil.

And irrepressible **Bernie Korent** showed four unusually shaped vases for dry flower arrangements: a diamond vase of myrtle, a round flat vase of She Oak, and a four piece tube vase of Myrtle and She Oak

Good Grief !

A tiny female janitor (4'10", 90 pounds) worked at an amusement park. She was told to go out and sweep the grounds. As she was getting ready to head out and clean up, her supervisor noticed that she was putting some rocks into her pockets.

When asked what she was doing she pointed out that it was quite windy outside and she feared she would be blown away
'So,' she said, 'now I weigh me down to sweep!'

The Hobby Turner

Timber !

www.hobithouseinc.com/personal/woodpics is a great site with a comprehensive data base of timbers from around the world. Just click on each timber and get a variety of pictures and information about that timber. The site is American but includes a lot of Australian native timbers.

Bendigo Woodworkers Inc

Pat Keefe's Interesting Internet Sites

As well as the club's own Site www.illawarrawoodworkersinc.com.au
Pat has found the following sites interesting and useful

<http://www.heritagebuilding.com.au/>

<https://www.gasweld.com.au>

<http://www.cws.au.com>

<http://www.garypye.com>

<http://www.gregmach.com/index.html>

<http://www.carterproducts.com>

<http://www.shortcuts.ca>

<http://www.woodworkersinstitute.com/page.asp>

<http://www.woodturnerruss.com/Index.html>

<http://www.wood-eze.com.au/index.html>

<http://www.thesandpaperman.com.au>

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Bernie and Patricia Korent

When I arrived at Bernie's home, his garage/shed was open. His modest Woodcraft lathe, a bandsaw and various tools were on one side of the shed. On the other side were lots of shelves of vases, bowls and various turned objects. Bernie has only been turning for a year, but when he goes into an activity, he goes into it full on!

Bernie's family emigrated from Germany and initially settled in Benalla, in Victoria, with hundreds of other emigrants. He was 14 and knew only had a couple of words of English. He and his mother both got jobs in a factory making and assembling chains: bicycle chains, etc. Bernie was on the 3.30 to 11.30pm shift. He says, 'Until then I had hardly been up later than 8.30 at night.' Numerous other jobs followed: cleaning, 4 years as a cook, maintenance, and all the while, improving his English. He also became very involved in Karate.

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He later moved to Wollongong, where he worked at the steelworks, before taking a job at the Fairy Meadow Migrant Centre. It was here that he met and married Patricia, who was a migrant from England. Other jobs followed, including a stint as a specialist cleaner of hospital operating theatres.

His last job before retiring was with Seawind Catamarans. They made luxury catamarans. At their height they employed a hundred workers and had a 2 year waiting list. But competition from South Africa (with cheap labour) and the high Australian dollar wrecked Seawind. When Bernie retired he was Detailing Manager, but Seawind was down to a dozen workers, and has ideas of moving to Viet Nam!

Meanwhile Bernie had continued his interest in martial arts, and climbed to the top level of Tae Kwon Do. He won his a black belt, became an instructor, and was well regarded in the Tae Kwon Do community. There were some side issues from this. These included his building and furnishing an outside pavilion in their garden for meditation, equipping and decorating parts of the garden in an oriental style, and cooking and enjoying Asian food. Patricia is also a keen gardener, propagating and growing their own vegetables, as well as keeping chooks

Near his retirement from Seawind, Bernie bought a lathe and some chisels and set to work to learn to turn, joining our club about the same time. His output is prolific. As well as the walls of his shed, their house is full of his turnings. Patricia jokes, 'He will be moving his bed into his workshop soon!'

Peter Hansen and Keith Guy and other club members have advised Bernie about turning, and he is keen to learn more. Recently Peter

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took him to 'The Cubby House' at Oyster Bay on one of their open days. Bernie was gob-smacked by the crowd, the organization, the interest, and the eight lathes being used for demonstrations of various turning techniques. He joined up on the spot.

While Bernie copies some traditional shapes in turning, he also wants to develop his own style. He has certainly shown this in some of the interesting pieces he has brought along for the club's Show and Tell. He often combines shapes and different timbers together in unusual ways. Is this a continuing influence of the German Bauhaus architectural school ? That's speculation, but speculation aside, Bernie wants to become the best he can be in the art and grace of turning.

Waist not Want Not

The Committee has decided to roster only one member for Supper at each Club Meeting. This has been done because of somewhat smaller attendances at club meetings, and in thoughtful consideration of the waists of those who do attend !

Bits and Pieces - Time Gentlemen, please !

Rick Funnell picked up slim blue clock at St Vinnies for the princely outlay of \$2. Rick kept it in his garage for a year (to make sure that it worked), and recently gave it to the club, where it's battery promptly gave up the ghost! Thanks Rick! But let's hope that this clock is not trying to tell us something !!

Brian Study re The Hobby Turner

Can you read this? Only 55 people out of 100 can. I cdnoult blveiee that I cloud aulacity uesdnatnrd what I was rdanieg: the geart pweor of the hamun mind. The bairn deos not raed every ltteer by istlef, but the wrod as a whloe. Yaeh and I awlyas tghohut spelilng was ipmorant !

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Tassie Trip

The Editor and his wife, Robyn, recently spent 3 weeks in Tasmania – part holiday, part catching up with relatives, and part a reunion of the ‘girls’ in Robyn’s year at Hornsby Girls High School. It was great! We saw numerous creeks and rivers, bubbling happily along full of water, and many stands of wonderfully tall straight trees. The trees of Tasmania are themselves worth the trip. While there, the arrangement about logging numbers between the timber-workers and conservationists came to a disastrous halt, with accusations being flung from both sides. However a few days later, the CEO of the Wilderness Society wrote a disappointed but conciliatory article, still holding out an olive branch.



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Another letter in the Hobart Mercury pointed out that the total number of timber workers in the state was 975 (ABS figures), about 1% of Tasmania’s workforce. Hmm. Let’s hope that good sense will prevail.

One extraordinary highlight was a visit to the ‘Wall in the Wilderness’, in a forest near Derwent Bridge in the west of the state. Ric Funnell had predicted that ‘it will blow your mind.’ That was an understatement. The ‘Wall’ was begun in 2005 and it is aimed to complete it by 2015. The Wall is a long central double-sided carved mural that pictures and honours the early workers who opened up much of the state. It comprises some 120 panels of sliced and glued together huon pine. Each panel is about a metre wide, some 5 metres high, and maybe 15-20cm thick.

The workmen carved into the panels are approx 1½ lifesize and are carved and finished with extraordinary detail. As well as workmen and occasional women helpers and wives, there are huge draft horses, carts, plenty of dogs, native animals and birds. Some of the panels display parts of the carving process, such as texta drawings of a man’s arm, then the initial removing of ‘waste wood’, followed by the more detailed carving and smooth finishing

Round the side walls are other carvings: boots, hanks of rope, chains, Drizabone coats, birds, native animals, and items for sale. It is an extraordinary creative feat. Quite breathtaking !.

Best and Hearty Wishes from the Club Executive and the Committee to all members and their families for Christmas and the coming New Year

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