

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

NOVEMBER 2008 NEWSLETTER

President	David Lipscombe	Oak Flats
Vice-president	Tony Sirotich	Figtree
Secretary	Mal Stewart	Thirroul
Treasurer	William Perry	Cordeaux Heights
Coordinator 1	Ric Funnell	Fairy Meadow
Coordinator 2	Ken Smith	Thirroul
Public Officer	John Parker	Corrimbal
Librarian	Kevin Parker	Woonona
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Events Coming Up

12 November 5.30pm Committee, 7pm Club Meeting

Supper Roster: Tony Hancox, Kieth Guy

10 December 5.30pm Committee, 7pm Club Meeting

Tony O'Connor of Illawarra ITeC to speak

Supper Roster: C Gibson, Roy Thomas

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

VALE - JOHN SCOTT

It is with sadness that we report the death of longtime club member John Scott who died of a heart attack in mid October. John was 74. Three of John's brothers have also died from heart attacks

Scotty was a loyal member of the club. He rarely missed a club meeting, and frequently attended the Saturday workshops and the sales and demonstration days. His cheerful face and warm personality will be greatly missed. Our thoughts and sympathy go to Thelma, his wife, to Philip and Peter, his sons, their wives, Helen and Elizabeth, and to his six grandchildren.

Recent Events

Bulli Show Our stall and demonstration at the Bulli Show went 'reasonably.' Numbers of people attending was down a little from previous years due no doubt to the elimination of the 'horse' events due to the equinine flue. Nevertheless we made roughly \$450 from sales of items and about \$200 from the raffle of a table and chairs set. Many thanks to those who demonstrated and looked after the stall on the weekend.

Ladies Evening at Bunnings The President reported that this was an excellent night. Our stall and demonstration was awarded a \$50 voucher for the 'Best Interactive Display'. Thanks again to those demonstated and manned the stall.

Garage Sale. On behalf of the Club, Mal Stewart bought several machine tools and numerous hand tools from a deceased estate for \$1200. We have kept a large high powered lathe, and a large bandsaw and some hand tools for the Club. The other machine and hand tools were offered for sale at a Garage sale at the club. This raised approx \$700, some of which will be used to buy a pedestal drill press. Thanks to Mal and to the various members who helped to sort out the tools

Illawarra ITeC

Plans for a possible future venture with Illawarra ITeC are proceeding, if somewhat slowly. All the paperwork from our side has now been completed and has now been given to the Principal and school community of the Fairy Meadow Demonstration School. Many thanks to our President and Secretary for the work they have put into this venture.

Old Courthouse Display and Demonstration

A good display of member's work was on show in the Old Courthouse on 1,2 November. Thanks to those who contributed, demonstrated and manned the tables, but they were only a comparative few. Special thanks too to Wendy Stewart and her helper who encouraged the spirits with tea, coffee and scones. Unfortunately Saturday was cold and overcast with drifts of light rain, and Sunday was not much better so we were somewhat underwhelmed with visitors.

We also need more participation from club members in making items for sale, and display, and in manning stalls. One idea is that each member make at least one item for sale for the club.

Show and Tell In September **Milan Oder** showed a non-segmented, segmented bowl of ingenious design and construction, and of high finish. **Albert Seath** showed a sandalwood jewelery box. Albert had hollowed out the inside of the box with a router. **Kieth Guy** showed some nicely turned pens. **Peter Hanson** and **John Parker** both contributed items for construction of the toy trucks, and for sale at the Old Courthouse. In October recently joined member **Frank Binerburg** showed and contributed a box of wedges. **Ken Smith** showed and donated three turned bowls for the club sales: two were turned from beech and one from silky oak. **Milan Oder** showed a veneer tray.

TONY HANCOX



Tony Hancox is in many ways a quiet achiever. Tony grew up in Stratford on Avon, in the same street and just around the corner from the house where Elizabeth, his future wife lived. They went to the same schools and knew each other as neighbours and friends. More of that later.

Tony's dream was to become a professional football player. Alas the selectors somehow overlooked him. But it wasn't for lack of trying on his part.

As a schoolboy he always

carried a tennis ball in his pocket. With a ball of any kind you were assured of playing a knock up soccer game. After school Tony played for the local team. The closest big city was Birmingham, but he supported Manchester United, and when they were playing at Birmingham he would cycle the 24 miles each way to cheer them on.

His Dad was a foundry worker. After school Tony got a carpentry apprenticeship, while still playing as much soccer as he could. Tony used to pass Lizzie's house on his way to soccer training. One day her mother said to her, 'That Tony Hancox is a nice young man. He takes flowers to his mum!' What she didn't realize was that the flowers were often snatched from the gardens of neighbours and were often a peace offering to Tony's mum, when Tony was late or hadn't done a job he had promised to do. Another time Tony went to training wearing a white teeshirt.

Lizzie saw him go by and thought he looked great! And Lizzie just happened to be on the street when he came back and of course they chattered as usual till Tony, in a burst of enthusiasm asked, ‘Would you like to come to the pictures with me?’ Then he quickly added, ‘But nothing permanent!’ That was 48 years ago! And the incident became part of family lore. Tony’s granddaughters like to rib him, ‘Nothing permanent today, Granddad?’

Tony did three years National Service in the army, serving overseas in Aden, Iraq and Germany. Arriving in Germany he was told to report to a particular section. As he was going there he met the Regimental Sergeant Major who barked, ‘Where are you off to, Hancox?’ Tony explained, but the RSM interrupted, ‘O No you’re not. I’m appointing you to the bar of the Sergeant’s Mess.’ The RSM knew of Tony’s skill at soccer, and knew he would enhance the Regimental soccer team. Tony says, ‘It was a cushy job which allowed plenty of time to train and play against other regiments or the navy or any one.’

After the army Tony worked as a maintenance carpenter with Flowers, a local brewery. He and Lizzie had married and had two children, Mark and Elizabeth, and of course he was playing soccer. Tony’s parents died and his brothers emigrated to NSW. They kept urging him to come out. So, out they came. With hindsight Tony said he didn’t realize how hard it would be for Lizzie, as she was leaving her parents, and they were losing their grandchildren.

Out here he initially couldn’t land a carpentry job, but as a temporary measure, got a job at South Bulli mine. His three older brothers worked at the mine. The temporary measure lasted 28 years! He and Lizzie lived in the Migrant Hostel and then bought a little one bedroom house in Russell Vale: they and their two children all crowded in together. Life was very full for Tony

but hard on Lizzie. He was on the night shift at the mine, and three mornings a week had a second job, installing oil heaters, and two afternoons a week he was at soccer training with the Bulli club. But they got through. Twice Tony enlarged the little cottage, adding two more bedrooms and a large lounge. Lizzie's parents came out to see them after two years, and after 11 years the family was able to go back to Stratford. Since then Tony and Lizzie have managed to visit the UK about every two years.

With two jobs, enlarging the house, soccer and raising the family, woodworking was put on the back burner. But eventually the house was completed, and even playing soccer sadly came to an end. About this time Tony saw Peter Hansen demonstrating wood turning and thought, 'that looks interesting.' He joined the club, got a Woodfast lathe, and was away. Tony is also a member of the Southern Region of the Sydney Woodturners. They have a clubhouse at Oyster Bay.

Tony now likes to get out to his large neat workshop in the afternoons. He has several machine tools, plenty of hand tools, and more than a barrow load of timber. He likes making challenging designs, and has made a number of segmented pepper mills and bowls. He has made some fine furniture for their home, including a really beautiful, complex hall stand, as well as some lovely jewelry boxes for the girls and ladies of the family. And he still has plenty of wood for more projects

Both Mark and Elizabeth Jnr are married and live reasonably locally. Tony and Lizzie now have six grandchildren . Grandma has done a lot of baby sitting over the years, but hasn't retired yet as their youngest grandchild is only one year old. But as Lizzie says, 'I like helping out, but as we get older, just sometimes it is nice to hand the children back to their parents!'

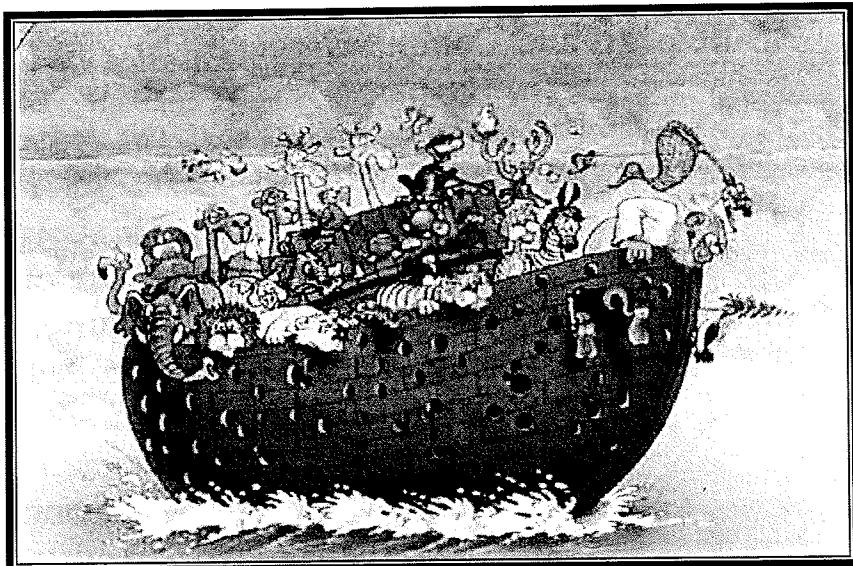
Interesting Tools.

Recently I asked Mal to enlarge our back porch and the roof above it, so turning it into a small verandah. Mal did this quickly, efficiently and skillfully. My wife Robyn and I are very pleased with the result and highly recommend this tradesman. While I tried to assist in a small way wherever possible it was interesting to see some of the skills that a tradesman working on his own did. For instance, to demolish the old porch roof I assumed Mal would use a long ladder, climb onto the roof and take off the corrugated iron sheets from above. In fact Mal used a step ladder and reached over the side of the corrugated sheets to extract the screws, and then take the sheets off one by one. Certainly far less climbing up and down ladders. Mal later said that an old artisan told him that 'a tradesman on his own can't match the speed of two or three tradesmen working together, so, to be competitive, he has to be smarter!'

Two of the tools Mal used which I hadn't seen were interesting. First was a 'Rapid Wrench spanner.' This was both adjustable and has a ratchet for both directions. Unlike a traditional adjustable spanner where the spanner handle is at the side of the nut, in the Rapid Wrench the adjustable jaws of the wrench reach down to grip the nut from above. Very effective and neat. I plan to get one.

The second interesting tool was a Right-angle Drive. No doubt these have been around for a while, but it was new to me. The Drive is attached to a standard electric hand drill, and used, as on this job, where there is not enough room to use the drill in the normal way. It is an obvious but effective solution when working in confined spaces.

Out of interest I called in to Bunnings and priced these two tools at roughly \$30 and \$17 respectively.



That Woodpecker has to go ! *The Hobby Turner*

OOPS ! Ma in Law.

A man, his wife, and mother-in-law went on vocation to Jerusalem. While they were there his mother-in-law passed away.

The Undertaker told them, 'You can have her body shipped home for \$5,000, or you can bury her here in the holy Land for \$200.

The man thought about it and then told the undertaker that he would have her shipped home.

The undertaker asked, 'Why would you spend \$5,000 to ship your mother-in-law home when she could be buried here and you would only spend \$200 ?

The man replied, 'Long ago a man died here, was buried here, and three days later he rose from the dead. I can't take that chance.'

Kiama Woodcraft Group Inc

O for Shame! And this Editor likes to think that this is a respectable Newsletter! Talk about self delusion !