

**ILLAWARRA WOODWORKERS  
GROUP INCORPORATED  
PO Box 121 Corrimal NSW 2518  
[www.illawarrawoodworkers.org.au](http://www.illawarrawoodworkers.org.au)  
June 2014 NEWSLETTER**

President	David Lipscombe	Oak Flats	
Vice-president	Mal Stewart	Thirroul	
Secretary	Pat Keefe	Towradgi	
Treasurer & P. Officer	William Perry	Cordeaux Heights	
Coordinator (Organ.)	Ric Funnell	Fairy Meadow	
Coordinator (W'shop)	Pat Keefe	Towradgi	
Coordinator (W'shop)	Mark Beaver	Towradgi	
Coordinator	John McMahon	Fairy Meadow	
Coordinator (Sales)	Janet Kearney	Warilla	
Librarian	Peter Hansen	Corrimal	
Coordinator (Training)	John Totenhofer	Balgownie	
Newsletter	John Cashman	Fernhill	

**Events Coming Up**

**11 June 5.30 Committee, 7pm Club Meeting**

Supper Roster: Rick Funnell

**13 August, 5.30 Committee, 7pm**

**9 July, 5.30 Committee, 7pm Club Meeting**

Supper Roster: Bill Perry

**13 August, 5.30 Committee, 7pm Club Meeting**

Supper Roster: Peter Hansen

**SHOW and TELL**

**In April**

**Pat Keefe** showed a platter made from a blackbutt burl, a myrtle bowl and two scoops made from Beenatree! Wow! Pat also made a folding stand out of redgum to display the platter

**In May**

**Frank Pynenburg** showed four classy bowls of camphor laurel, blackwood, brown beech and jacaranda all finished with Shellowax which he donated to club sales. Thanks Frank

**Milan Oder** showed two Lazy Susan platters, each made of well over a hundred pieces of various timbers and veneers. Very attractive.

**Rick Funnell** showed a sculpture and four odd shaped bowls carved from cedar (two for club sales) Thanks Rick. He also showed two smaller and four larger scroll sawed celtic decorations mounted on mbf board. Very interesting.

**Mal Stewart** showed and eight sided lidded box of radiata pine The box had four levels of pine as well as its base and lid, and Mal had used a router and formers to make the shape, both inside and out. Interesting and different!

**Mark Beaver** showed a hardwood bowl, a toothpick holder of sheoak and a table lamp, which started off as a candlestick, but changed along the way of white cedar.

**Here and there**

**Keith Guy** has decided to take a year off. Good luck Keith Keith has been our Rocking horse man, among other things.

**Welcome** to new member, Tony Bell. Tony's father was a builder and Tony said he grew up with a paint brush in one hand and a hammer in the other. Now retired, he is keen to learn the skill of wood turning. Pat Keefe is obliging him.**P2**

## **The Annual General Meeting**

Regretfully the AGM in April was poorly attended. This resulted in all positions being taken on by the same members with thankfully, two additions, namely Mark Beaver (Workshop Coordinator) and Janet Kearney (Sales) We gladly welcome these two members Financially, we finished the year in the black. This was particularly due to Kate Morris and our Treasurer who together drafted our successful application to the Community xxx Grants. Keeping a careful eye on spending has also been out Treasurer's watchword.

The Thirroul Seaside Festival went pretty well, though because of the weather we had to pack up at lunchtime on Sunday. With quite good sales at Thirroul our President requested members to put good effort into making varied items for Bulli Show. At present we have a good supply of door wedges for the \$2 box, and a good variety of turned bowls.

Also mentioned at the AGM was our teaching some basic woodworking to several boys from the school. The boys are taught for a hour on Thursdays. The President thanked those members who give up their time to teach the boys and also the members who prepare the pieces of wood for the boy's projects.

Long-time member, John McMahon was also awarded Life membership of the Club.

Rick Funnel

## **Ladies First!**

It is very pleasing to have Janet Kearney now elected to the club Committee. Though we have had several lady members of the club over the years, we think Janet is the first to serve on the Committee.

The Committee is also conscious that several spouses / partners of members who help us out, particularly at shows and festivals. We much appreciate their help and encouragement and are exploring ways of showing our appreciation to these ladies.

**Page Three**



**John and Mal in 2007** (Albert and Ken look on)

## **John McMahon**

John has been a member of the club for 28 years. He was awarded the Bill Body Trophy in 2007, and was its first recipient.

After completing school John undertook a five year Indentured Apprenticeship as a carpenter and joiner. Once that was completed, John had a desire for adventure and travel.

His first stop was at Hay in regional NSW where he worked as a carpenter for the local Undertaker. Soon John's duties were not limited to making coffins. He also took on other Undertaker's responsibilities.

After 12 months, John broadened his life by going to New Zealand. There he worked on both islands for 4 years as a shopfitter for Woolworths, on various construction jobs, and primarily on cottage building. Unlike cottage work today where each trade specializes in their own field, in John's day cottage carpenters did everything from digging holes for the footings to the final stages of construction.

On John's return he worked both in Wollongong and Sydney as a carpenter and joiner. But again adventure called, and John worked on the construction of the Snowy River Scheme for three years as

**Page Four**

a carpenter and Union representative. There John worked with a variety of men from a diverse range of cultures who had emigrated to Australia to work on the Snowy. In 1997 John was awarded Life Membership of the CMFEU for his contribution to the scheme.

John returned to Wollongong as a housing boom had occurred and he decided to settle back here. He worked with several prominent Wollongong builders. At this stage, John met and married Betty. That was now 54 years ago. They have three adult children.

While John and Betty's children were growing up, John diversified to become a Licensed Truck Body builder. This entailed repairing the timber flooring on cargo and heavy machinery vehicle trailers. He also obtained his Commercial Vehicle license and his Crane Operator's license. He used both for another 10 years.

In 1998 John developed throat cancer which he fought through many battles. During these battles with cancer he eventually lost his voice. As a result John had to relearn to talk using an artificial aid. This is often hard work both for John and for his hearers. But John's perseverance has meant that he has not given up the challenge to speak. This is a gift we so often take for granted.

Some of the projects that John has been involved with at different stages have included – the Wollongong Performing Arts Centre, the Buddhist Temple, bridgework for the Dombarton railway line, restoration of heritage houses in 'The Rocks.' In Canberra some of the projects he worked on include the Australian Defence Force Academy, and the joinery and cabinet work in the Prime Minister's Office in the 'new' Parliament House

John is a skilled woodworker, and likes to work with recycled timber. Around their house, which he built, there are many items he has made, such as a folding ladder chair, a rocking chair, an old fashioned waiter's table trolley. He has also made numerous jewelry boxes for his family and friends. One is shaped like an old family Bible, and needs two secret slides to be triggered before it opens. Very neat!

Patrick McMahon

**Page Five**

## **Young Woodworkers**

Currently the third set of six boys from the school are meeting with some club members for eight Thursdays for basic instruction and practice in woodworking. This term we have Bailey, Baron, Cameron, Harry, Joseph and Sio, with Ms Pip, a school teacher. Last term Blake, Brendan, Jay, Jack, Kaycee and Rohan all completed three projects which they showed at a school assembly presentation day. The school is very pleased with this experiment, and wants to keep it going. According to the headmaster, 'boys are lining up to have a turn.'



Blake, Jay, Rohan, Ms Pip, and Jack at the School Assembly

## **Saturday Workshops.**

These will continue as usual, though possibly at slightly slower pace, now Thirroul and Bulli are over, but there is always plenty to learn and do, as well as making individual items and yarning and sharing morning tea together. And one day the mystic BBQ lunch may finally make an appearance!

**Page Six**

## **Bill Body Trophy**



**Peter and President Dave**

The Bill Body Trophy for this year was awarded to Peter Hansen. Peter has been a long time member and is a Life Member of the club. He has held various positions on the Committee. He trained as a carpenter and joiner and is an expert craftsman, very particular, and always seeking the highest standard in woodworking. Peter is quietly spoken. He is great at identifying various timbers. He is a fine teacher and willingly shares his wide experience of woodworking. He was a good friend and companion of Bill Body, and the award to Peter is richly deserved.

**Page Seven**

## **Event Co-ordinators**

Regretfully there were some complaints after the Thirroul Festival over the arrangements. To forestall any further unpleasantness the President decided to have an Event Organiser for each occasion. Rick Funnell and Janet Kearney volunteered for the Bulli Show. They will arrange the display of items for sale and for show. Additionally, any complaints or ideas are to be directed to them, and such complaints or ideas will be noted down and reported to the next Committee meeting for discussion.

## **Back from the wars...**

Good to see **Ken Hutchison** at the Saturday workshop. Ken was in hospital a while ago, and now visits for treatment every week and 10 days

**Peter Hansen** has had some keyhole surgery to his left shoulder, following a fall at the club. Peter is bundled up in a large sling and looking forward to freer days.

**John McMahon** has had a few plastic surgery operations and is on the mend. Would his wife still know him when the bandages come off?

**Photos** in this Newsletter of the Young Woodworkers and of Peter Hansen are courtesy of Rick Funnell

**Thanks** to Bendigo Bank, the Oak Flats and Shellharbour Community Branches, who have again sponsored the club with a grant towards general consumables. If Bendigo is your bank, or are thinking of changing to it, please mention you are a club member. It may help us with getting a further grant !

**Page Eight**