

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

AUGUST 2005 NEWSLETTER

Committee.

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

Coming Events – lots ! Peter Hansen announced these were
August 10: Club Meeting. Bill Body on Fluting with turned work.
August 16,23,30, Sept 6 Tuesdays, Routing Workshop for 4 weeks
with Mal Stewart at the Club. 6.30pm - 9ish
August 21: Sun. Edmund Rice College. Demo & Sales 10am - 3pm
September 2-4 Canberra Wood Show
September 10 Sat: Feast Watson Products at the Club 9am -12noon
September 14 Wed Club Meeting 7pm
September 17,18 Weekend Bulli Show Demonstration and Sales

Secretary. It has been on the cards for a while, but Bill Hopton, our Secretary, moved to Makay in Queensland last Sunday. Bill will be regularly commuting between Makay and Wollongong for a while before moving more permanently to Makay round the end of the year. Bill is a fine artisan, a great enthusiast, and a real personality in the Club. We will certainly miss him, but wish him and Jodie all the best in their new venture.

So we are looking for a Secretary for the Club !

Quiz What is the fibre saturation point in the seasoning of timber ?

Leading the Rout. Mal Stewart presented at our last two meetings on routing, and sanding. Mal is a fine artisan and a good teacher. He has had his teaching skills stretched and honed in teaching Work for the Dole students. Some are keen to acquire skills, some are just interested, and some disinterested. A real challenge. But Club members appreciated Mal's teaching abilities and the experience he shared with us.

Routers can be dangerous. Mal made no bones about that, Safety must come first. Balance is very important, and common sense. Unplug when adjusting the router, and put it down on its back with the switch 'up'. And direction? Move the router in the direction of the cutter against the timber. Dust masks are very important, as are ear plugs. 15 minutes continual use can cause hearing damage.

But Mal says though that routers are remarkably versatile machine tools. He brought three along and discussed their pros and cons. Particularly impressive was the longer baseplate Mal made and attached to his router, giving much better control. He glued formica to the baseplate to reduce friction. Mal also advised taking deep cuts in two stages. Don't force the tool.

Mal has offered to run a Routing Workshop at the club for four Tuesday evenings. Initially the aim will be to teach and increase proficiency in the use of routers, and to make some decorative wheelbarrows and children's play furniture that can be sold for the club. The Committee accepted Mal's offer with alacrity

With sanding Mal especially emphasised wearing a good fitting mask, that meets the requirements of the Australian Standards. And Mal has donated a box of 'Unisafe' dust masks to the Club

Quiz Answer:

The saturation point reached after free water (moisture held in cell cavities in the wood) has evaporated. This leaves combined water (moisture trapped within the cell walls) which evaporates more slowly and causes shrinkage.

Splitting typically occurs because the outer layers of the timber have started to shrink before the inner layers, which have not reached fibre saturation point.

Ernie Newman *Sydney Woodturners Guild*

Bill Hopton.



Bill Hopton is currently our jovial Temporary Secretary. Outwardly he is warm, enthusiastic, humorous, self-depreciating, one who loves a challenge, and a great presenter, but he says that he has another side too.

Bill grew up in Birmingham UK and graduated in Minerals Engineering from the University. But then found he couldn't get a job. His father said to him, 'Son, thou needs go to Australia !' Fortunately BHP were recruiting at the time, and so to Australia Bill went, in 1982.

After arriving at Figtree, the next day he went to a pub, and found that the local rugby team was training the next night. Bill went, joined the club, Weerona, and within a few weeks had 80 mates. They had some wild times together.

One time a group of them were sharing a house. There was a washing machine which you filled by a hose. One of them turned it on, but forgot about it while they all went out for a party. When they came home the house was full of water, almost up to the window sills. 'We were drilling holes in the floor. Anything to get the water out !'

Bill loves Rugby, he was a front row forward. He played in Johannesburg, during a work slot from Uni, and later played while working in NZ. So who does he support ? Well, in NZ he was intrigued to see two Tee shirts on sale with the captions 'I support the All Blacks' and, 'I support any team playing against Australia !' Bill says that he does support England in cricket. 'Sooner or later,' he says 'the tide has got to turn. But he adds, ' Mind you, I've been saying that for 20 years !!' Rugby was great, but eventually the time came to hang up his boots, then what to do ?

There was darts, another way of bending your elbow. More, he met the delectable Jodie, who became his wife, playing darts at the Collegians 'something about getting a dart in the toe of his shoe !' They have a son, Cohen, who is doing a TAFE Hospitality course on the Sunshine Coast.

Then a friend invited him to some turning at the Illawarra Woodworkers, who were then meeting at the University workshop. Bill went, saw the turning, and also met Terry Elkins who was carving. Bill's Dad had carved a couple of pieces, long ago, and when asked, sent Bill his chisels, which were 'blunt as hell !' In turn that started Bill not only on woodcarving, but also on how to sharpen chisels and knives. Bill has three methods and uses all three. He has done some fine carvings

Bill has also learnt and turned some fine pieces. He has a Record lathe, 5 speed and 36" between centres. I liked the small bowl he made from the trunk of a tree that blew over in a fierce windstorm, and smashed into the roof of their house a couple of years ago.

'But is carving your favourite ?' 'Mmm. It varies. I went to a Fine Woodwork weekend at Emu Plains a month ago. It was inspiring. Now I would like to make some furniture.' ' And what does Jodie do ?' 'She used to do cross stitching, but now its ceramics.' Bill grins, 'I've got all this beautiful stack of wood, and I come home and find that it is splattered with clay !'

Bill has held several positions on the Club Committee, and has held them with aplomb, enthusiasm and humour. About the Club he says, ' There are three groups of club members. There are a few experts, some others who are reasonably experienced and are prepared to have a go, and others who just like being there. I would like to see more from the first and third group join the middle group and have a go, both at the Show and Tell and at Presenting. Everyone makes mistakes at times, but that is part of it. It's being human, and it's worth having a go !'

And Bill's future ? Later this year he and Jodie are moving North to Makay in Queensland where he will be manager of a laboratory analysing coal. 'Makay is really on the go with coal and sugar. Currently they export as much coal in a month, as Port Kembla does in a year.' 'And are you nervous about the move ?' 'Oh. Challenges are there to be tackled, wrestled with, overcome, and enjoyed. I'm looking forward to it, and we will be closer to Cohen.'

There is still something of a front row forward to Bill. I don't know whether Bill checked out the rugby club in Makay, but he did check out the local Woodies. They have a very big shed, with 8 or 9 lathes, and .. and ..and... Ah Queensland!