

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

September 2007 NEWSLETTER

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Secretary	Mal Stewart	Thirroul
Treasurer	William Perry	Cordeaux Heights
Public Officer	John Parker	Corrimal
Librarian	Kevin Parker	Woonona
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Events Coming Up

12 September. 7pm Club Meeting

15-16 September. Sales and Demonstrations-Bulli Show

3 October. 5pm Committee Meeting

10 October. 7pm Club Meeting

7 November. 5pm Committee Meeting

14 November. 7pm Club Meeting

Club Workshops

15 Club Workshops were held on Saturdays and Mondays during June, July and early August working on children's chairs and tables, toy garages and various items for sale particularly for our Belmore Basin Day and for Bulli Show. Thanks to those who came. Average attendance was four blokes a workshop. Would have been nice to have a few more. Prize for the most regular attender goes to John McMahon

Library Display Cabinets.

Throughout July we had two cabinets of member's works on display in Wollongong Library, one on the ground floor and one upstairs. On show were numerous bowls, platters, toys, clocks and carvings. Thanks to Bill Hedley, Peter Hansen, Milan Oder, Rick Funnel, Tony Hancock, John Parker and others who contributed their work.

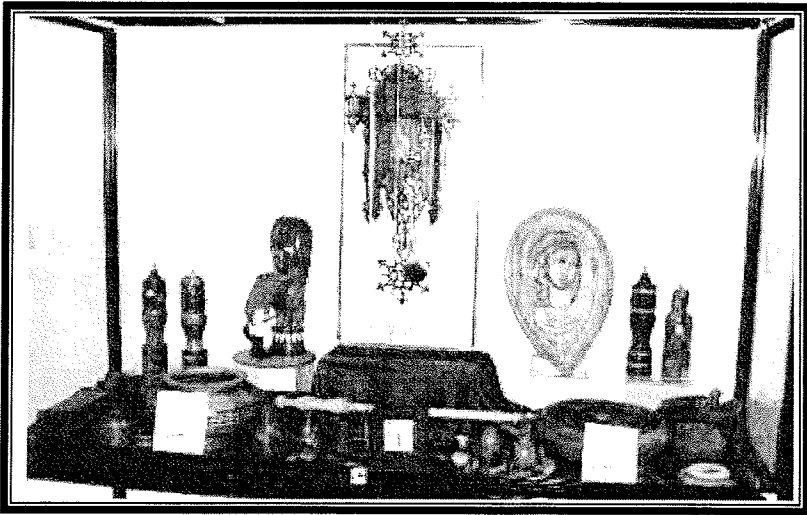


Photo : John Parker

Show and Tell

In July Albert Seath showed a Tea Pot stand made from rock maple and juniper. Albert also showed some of his 'chessboard' breadboards made from rock maple and blackwood, and a striped breadboard made from blackwood and mulberry. All finished with Mirratone.

Ken Smith, brought along his Santa bag of goodies, which included 32 door wedges, 20 wooden spoons, 6 toilet roll holders and 30 diggers. Thanks again Ken!

In August Ken Smith showed a bowl of seven petals that had been made from one of the Islands up north. The petals had been individually cut and then attached under a centre piece to make the bowl

Milan Oder showed a large bowl fashioned from a red gum burl and finished with shellac: a wonderful centerpiece for any table, but not an easy bowl to pass for those with delicate wrists.

Barry Long gave a report on the seven sided jewelery box he is making that is patterned after the Rand diamond.

Court House

Sad to report that our Demonstration and Sales weekend at the Old Court House, Belmore Basin last month was not a success. The weather was kind on the Saturday but cold and overcast on the Sunday. Visitors to the exhibition were not large in number and sales were few. This was disappointing particularly for Dave and Mal and their helpers who had put in lots of time making items for sale. A lesson must be that to make sales we have to be where people are! O well, it's back to the drawing board! And Bulli Show is coming up this month!

Shame!

A husband asked his wife, 'If I died, would you remarry?'

Wisely his wife answered, 'After an appropriate time of mourning I would consider it.'

'Would your new husband live in this house with you?''Yes,'

she answered, 'where else would you expect him to live?'

'And would he sleep in our bed?' Hesitatingly she answered,

'Dear, if you died and I remarried, then of course he would sleep in our bed. What else would you expect?'

'And would he use my golf clubs?' he asked.

'O no. He's left handed!'

Kevin Parker.



Kevin is one of the quiet members of the club, but he is a man who has made his mark on numerous high school children. On entering his and Ann's home there is a magnificent model of the Endeavour.

Quite stunning, but more later. There are also numerous smart paintings on the walls throughout their house, mostly landscapes. His wife, Ann, painted all but a couple of them.

Kevin trained as an Industrial Arts teacher, at the old Sydney Technical College, later to become the University of NSW. This was followed by a year at Sydney Teacher's College, doing the equivalent of the post-grad Diploma of Education. He taught at several country and city high schools. He soon climbed the ladder in the teaching profession, or more exactly, was urged to apply for higher positions by various bosses. His skills both with students and in administration were quickly recognized, and he was often given the positions of Acting Subject Master, Acting Deputy Principal and Acting Principal before he attained these positions. One Principal wrangled with the Education Department so that he had an inspection after one year to become a Subject Master, instead of waiting the usual two years. At Liverpool High he was in charge of the largest Industrial Arts Department in the State, responsible for 17 + teachers. Another. Principal sent in his application to be a Principal without Kevin knowing about it. He said to Kevin,

‘You’ve been virtually running the school for years. It’s time you were officially recognized.’

But it wasn’t all plain sailing, there was a teacher’s strike at Warilla, while he was Deputy Principal. They were losing a Science Teacher because of dropping numbers. Kevin had asked a part-time teacher could she fill in. Yes, happily she would. But the Maths Master was aggressive and he and all the staff went on strike. The Education Dept wouldn’t move as the school was already well supplied with teachers. Eventually the compromise arrived at was a part-time teacher, such as Kevin had arranged before the month-long strike! And when he was Principal at Sir Joseph Banks High, some boys came from very paternalistic families. So much so that Kevin was forced to only deal with their fathers, (as the boys didn’t listen to their mothers), and sometimes he had to threaten to expel the boy involved before his father would finally front up.

Then tragedy struck from another angle. Greg, the eldest of their three children had also become a woodwork teacher. ‘Greg was always bright and amusing. He was the light of our lives.’ But when only 27, and happily married, he contracted a virulent form of leukemia. Kevin himself was also in hospital at the time, so Ann was visiting Kevin at Royal Prince Alfred and Greg at St Vincent’s. Kevin and Ann also have two girls, Joanne and Lucinda, and three grandchildren. The leukemia Greg had caught quickly did its deadly work, and when he died, it ‘knocked the stuffing out of us.’

‘I went back to Sir Joseph Banks, but my heart wasn’t in it. After some time I contacted the Area Director about leaving. He was sympathetic, and I left on half pay. I had never taken any long service leave and with it, I was able to manage until I officially reached retirement age.’

A year or so before he died, Greg gave his father a kit of James Cook's 'Endeavor':- big model- 80cm long, 60cm high and 16 cm beam. Kevin had started on the hull, when both he and Greg ended up in hospital. 'Then I didn't touch it for a few years.' But eventually Kevin met a chap who was a model builder, and he came to look at the hull. This chap praised Kevin and urged him frequently to complete the model. Eventually Kevin did, and finished the Endeavor about 15 years after Greg had given him the kit. It is a fantastic model! Superb woodwork and rigging! Kevin not only completed the model but improved on it making it even more authentic. The Endeavor is a testimony to his skill and is a great memorial to Greg.

Kevin joined the club, after a lathe that he had bought cheaply got stuck on one speed. He frequently went to the Monday group, both when it was a toy making group, and more recently making things for sale. He is a quiet man who does not push himself forward, but he is a meticulous and highly skilled worker. Every room in their home has pieces of high quality furniture he has made – chairs, tables, beds, armchairs, dressers.

More recently he and Ann have enjoyed some travels, both in Tasmania and the mainland states and overseas - UK, Ireland, New Zealand, the Islands, and earlier this year, China. Kevin has shown the club photos of some fine Chinese furniture. Interestingly Wollongong Art Gallery, also has some old classic Chinese furniture currently on display.

Tips from Guilio Marcolongo

1. Use 180 then 240 then 320 wet and dry paper with water for a super fine finish on most woods.
2. When using sandpaper, take paper away from the job during a sanding stroke. This will assist in eliminating sanding marks

Woodworking Tips *from the Eurobodalla Woodies July' 07*

1. Think before you cut. - The most powerful tool in your shed is your brain, use it. Thinking your cuts and movements can help save fingers and scrapwood.

2. Keep a clean shed – A cluttered shed can be an accident waiting to happen. Keeping your head clean will help protect you, and your tools, from tripping hazards.

3. Avoid distractions. – Pay attention to your actions. Looking away while using a saw or the lathe can be disastrous. Wait until you finish the cut before taking your eyes off the blade.

4. Don't rush.- Remember that this is a hobby. Take a break when you feel rushed or frustrated. Mistakes happen when we rush to complete a job.

5. Protect Yourself.- Wearing proper protection is an important part of safe operation. Don't neglect Goggles, Ear Protection, Lung Protection especially when using power tools. Use push sticks when working close to the blade and make sure the tool's safety features are in place.

6. Don't force it.- If the saw is resisting the cut, stop and see what is wrong. A misaligned rip fence or improperly seated throat plate can sometimes cause a board to get stuck. Forcing the board may cause kickback or contact with the blade. Take a moment to evaluate the situation and find the problem.

7. Let the tool stop.- Give the power tool time to stop after a cut is an often overlooked mistake. Even without power a spinning blade can still do a lot of damage.

8. Fumes and Dust.- Solvent fumes and airborne dust present health and explosion hazards. Take care to have a fresh air supply and explosion proof vent fans.

9. Wear appropriate clothing.- Loose clothing or hair can get caught in power tools and cause severe injury.

10. No Alcohol.- Alcohol clouds your judgment. Wait until after you have finished in the shed.

Bill Body Memorial.

The proposed Bill Body Cup is now to be the **Bill Body Trophy**. Current plans are for a woodworker with hammer and saw, a la Bill B, standing on an elliptical base. Small shields can be mounted around the base. Terry Elkins has undertaken the task of carving 'Bill.'

Good Grief !

McTight ran an efficient shop, everybody had to pull their own weight or they were out the door. It particularly galled him when he spotted a young man goofing off outside the foreman's office. He was sitting on a stack of timber trimming his fingernails, when he finished that he idly traced designs in the sawdust on the floor with his foot.

After several minutes of this McTight could stand no more. He stepped out in front of the young man and demanded, " How much do you make?"

"Three hundred dollars a week sir," the lad replied.

McTight took out his wallet and counted out some cash, " Here is two weeks pay, get out of here and don't come back."

No sooner had the surprised young man left the shop when the foreman returned.

"Had a little problem to straighten out with the thickness sander," he remarked, " What happened to the kid from the deli, I told him to wait here for our lunch order."

Paddy got a job at an apartment complex, after three days the superintendent called him into his office.

" How could you even apply for this job? " he said, " You have bungled every repair that I've asked you to do."

" Well your sign said Handyman Wanted, I'm handy, I live around the corner."