



Illawarra Woodworkers Group

2026 July NEWSLETTER

Committee 2025/26

President	Horacio Rodrigues
Vice -president	David Lipscombe
Secretary	Michael Cappelin
Treasurer	Darinka Radinovic
Assistant Treasurer	
Public Officer	William Perry
Coordinator (Organising Shows & Sales)	Rick Funnell
Coordinator (Maintenance)	
Coordinator (Workshop)	Pat Keefe
Club sales Coordinator	Darinka Radinovic
Librarian	Heidi Bain
Newsletter Editor	Virginie Schmelitschek / Julien Leveugle
Website Coordinator	Julien Leveugle (TBC)

Hello Fellow Woodies

On 13 June we held the AGM and as you can see above: we have a new President: Horacio Rodrigues (previously our Vice-President) was nominated and he accepted the nomination. He said that he appreciated to be nominated and looked forward to be President. He promised to do his best for the club.

Our outgoing President David thanked everyone and offered his assistance to our new President. He enjoyed his recent travels and is now free to do more.

Thank you to all those members who nominated themselves or accepted nominations. We need members to take on roles to have our club run smoothly.

All the best to the new Committee in running the Club.

Life Membership

At the end of the AGM Pat Keefe was awarded Life Membership, which is well deserved. Congratulations to Pat from us all.

(To receive Life Membership, you need to be a member for at least 10 years, with active participation in IWG events, e.g. sales, promotion of woodworking skills and maintenance of equipment, with focus on safety. And also assisting with the Thursday school classes, if at all possible).

President Horacio congratulating Pat on his Life Membership.



Grants News:

We received a \$500 grant from Bendigo Bank, which we have to use by February 2027, for items specified in the grant application. Let the Committee know if you have any suggestions.

The grant application from the government was not successful.

We also applied for a grant from Community Building Partnerships. The outcome will not be known for a while yet. Keep your fingers crossed...

IMPORTANT

Membership **renewals** were due in April.

If you have not renewed your membership, please do so ASAP.

If your renewal is not paid by August, you will be deemed not financial and no longer a member.

You will have to start the new member process again...

VALE Yvonne Cooper



Our member Yvonne Cooper passed away in June.

Yvonne joined our club in March 2017.

In this time she kept us all in line mastering the art of getting all members to clean up after themselves on machines.

Took it upon herself to keep the toilet and kitchen clean.

Was a brilliant wood burner, took all aspects of wood work seriously, taking lots of projects home or made them for club sales.

She attended our Club sales events regularly.

Yvonne will be sadly missed.

Our full condolences go out to her family and friends.

David Lipscombe, previous President

Flowers from the Club sent to Yvonne
while she was in hospital.



Show and tell

Horacio's Becon plane (1961 made in Austria)



Bill's beautiful cedar boxes



Virginie's garden picture frames from old fence palings – thank you to Phil Fogg for help with the drop saw.



New Members welcome

Belatedly: a warm WELCOME to our new members: Soraya, Heidi, Jamie, Kire, Rogellio. We look forward to seeing you in the shed.

Member Profile: Darinka Radinovic



Question 1: How long have you been doing woodwork?

Since 2015. In all honesty I can't say I do woodwork because I have produced so little.

Question 2: How long have you been a member of IWG?

11 years – since 2015

Question 3: What type of woodwork do you mostly prefer?

I'm not into ornate or fussy work — I prefer clean, simple pieces that are useful. I like timbers with a subtle grain rather than anything too showy, and I like work that shows real craftsmanship in how it's made.

Question 4: What item you made are you most proud of?

There are two! The first is a charcuterie board made from red cedar. I originally made it to be sold for club funds, but my daughter fell in love with it, so I bought it back myself and also the table number placeholders I made for my youngest daughter's wedding.

Question 5: Do you have a shed at home?

I live in a unit. One reason why the club is so important it caters for people like me who don't have the space at home to do woodwork.

Question 6: Did you ever have an accident while doing woodwork?

Luckily no accidents.

Question 7: Did you have any disasters at work or the shed?

I have not produced enough to have had any disasters.

Question 8: What do you like about being a member of IWG?

Sitting under the big tree listening to the members during morning tea. A very eclectic group of people with interesting stories.

I also like seeing the skills and knowledge being passed on and shared.

Workshop Safety

a monthly message from the Workshop Coordinator (we cannot be reminded of this often enough!)

- **IMPORTANT:** Work shop safety must always be at the top of our list of priorities. Wear suitable clothes and enclosed shoes.
- Always ensure the dust **collector gates** are open when you use the equipment in the shed. ASK someone, if you are not sure what to do.
- Get help with the correct procedure for the **sawdust bag**.
- Clean up a machine and the floor after use, if significant mess. DO NOT ASSUME SOMEONE ELSE will use it after you. Do it as you go.
- Put the hose in to the **vacuum cleaner** the right way! If it is not sucking up the mess, empty it!
- The drum sander **cannot** have painted or varnished timber going through it as it will clog up the sandpaper.
- The table saw is
 - NOT a storage space
 - NOT a work bench
 - Put NOTHING on the extension
- *Use eye, ear, head and feet protection too, no loose clothes, and, keep an eye on people around you.*
- *Sometimes it's just the simple things we all forget, like if you have medium/long hair, tie it up if working close to moving machinery.*
- **NEVER be complacent – blades bite!**
(the last 3 dot points were copied from "Ingrained" the Knox newsletter)

LIBRARY

Our club library is available to all members with copies of Australian Wood Worker, Fine Woodworking, etc. available to get some ideas on your next project. Just remember to sign out and back in anything that you need.

NEWSLETTER ITEMS

The October **Bulli Wood Show** (aka as Festival of Wood) has been cancelled.

Term 3 of our weekly school **kids' classes** will commence on Thursday 30 July. Please come and assist for 1 hour from 2 – 3pm on Thursday afternoons for 8 weeks. This is in lieu of rent, so we need of volunteers help to run these well.

The Helensburgh Country Fair will be on 24 October and we need items to sell, so please get cracking!

Other Woodworking groups

If you are interested in what other Woodworker Groups are doing, here is a link to the Knox and District Woodworkers Club (Vic) latest newsletter:

The **LATEST KDWC edition** of the "Ingrained" newsletter (July 2026) is now at <https://www.knoxwoodies.org.au/current>

This is your lot for this newsletter.

Please send in anything you think may be useful/fun for our members.

Cheers

Virginie Schmelitschek
(Editor)

