

**ILLAWARRA WOODWORKERS GROUP INCORPORATED**  
**PO Box 121 Corrimal NSW 2518**  
**www.illawarrawoodworkers.org.au**  
**August 2017 NEWSLETTER**

President	David Lipscombe	Oak Flats	
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Coordinator (W'shop)	Pat Keefe	Towradgi	
Coordinator (W'shop)	Mark Beaver	Towradgi	
Coordinator ( Assist Treasurer & Sales)	Janet Kearney	Warilla	
Librarian	Peter Hansen	Corrimal	
Newsletter	John Cashman	Fernhill	

**Events Coming Up**

**12 August 2017** – – **Committee** (early) and **Club's General Meeting** (9.00 approx)

**9 September 2017** – **Committee** (early) and **Club's General Meeting** (9.00 approx)

**Show and Tell In June ++ Yvonne Cooper** showed a very nice cheeseboard decorated with a cheeky little mouse, inscribed by pyrography , a bowl inscribed with a kangaroo inscribed inside, and four decorated bangles with designs by pyrography. Given the interest in pyrography it is hoped to have a specialist, Ed Costa, visit the club in the not too distant future

++ **Janet Kearney** showed a 'log' jewellery box. Very nice. Made from beenatree or wasatree

**In July ++ Rich Funnell** showed a variety of elliptical shaped dishes made from oregon. cedar. silky oak and camphor laurel. Some donated to club sales. Thanks Rich. You're a gentleman! .

++ **Tony Bell** showed an elliptical jewellery box 'band-sawed' from camphor laurel. Very cute!

**LIBRARY** Peter and Judith Hansen arranged some members pieces in the display cabinet in Wollongong Library for July. Very attractive too. This month the display items were rearranged in Corrimal Library show cabinet Thank you Judith and Peter!

**FINANCE.** Annual Fees, \$25, are now very much overdue! These fees cover Insurance, impromptu teaching and help. and replacing worn and overused items and equipment

**SCHOOL** The 16th FM School Basic Woodwork class, and 5<sup>th</sup> including girls is currently underway. . And thanks to our team of Trainers – John M. John P, Peter H. Tony B, Rich F and Yours Truly and helped by school teacher Jarret Napper. Thanks also to several other club members who have helped out at times. This school group will conclude our fourth year of teaching the Basic Course. Some photos of the group at work have been included in the Library displays,

**WOMENSWERK** TODAY, 12<sup>th</sup> August, the WEA is offering a 'Skilled Womens' workshop with power tools. \$20! Great ! At least one of our members is attending. But should not our Club be doing this ourselves ?? There is also a free concert this afternoon at the Town Hall. 2pm , celebrating the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Illawarra Choral Society

**BOOKS** We are grateful to receive a gift of Woodworking books from a widow whose husband recently died. She sold us his new bandsaw. These books, will soon be available for loan once our librarian, Peter Hansen has entered and catalogued them.



**Bigger and Bigger** Bunnings are

building another huge store at Bellambi, not really that far from their well patronised store at North Wollongong. Sales must be all right !

**AUSTRALIAN HARDWOOD COMEBACK** On July 9<sup>th</sup> the ABC program 'Landline', normally devoted to agricultural items, featured a recently opened \$6 million hardwood sawmill at Yarram in Gippsland Victoria. Hardwood sawmills are not rare, but this one, instead of using traditional saw patterns, saws radially so that the log is sawn into eight wedges, as though a pizza was held up to guide the saw. The wedges are then cut into planks or other shapes

The owners, one of whom was a wood scientist with CSIRO, claim that this pattern of sawing allows more of the timber in the log to be used, ie less waste timber. They also claim that smaller and younger hardwood trees can be sawn, at 25 years old rather than the traditional 40 to 50 years of age. They are also planting and harvesting plantation hardwood trees such as Silver Top Ash, Southern Mahogany and Spotted Gum which all grow well in the area. Environmentalists are pleased that when hardwood plantation timber becomes more popular, there will be less demand for timber in native forests.

The owners also point out that radially sawn timber warps less than traditionally sawn timber. Some years ago Mal Stewart extended our small back veranda or 'poop deck.' Two 3 1/2" square uprights held up the roof. I was surprised that the uprights were made of three long slim lengths glued together. 'They won't warp,' Mal said. He was right. Whereas the uprights outside the Balgownie Hotel have twisted and split quite a bit.

Some young creative architects have designed outside walls, weatherboards, stairs, sunshields and other items using radially sawn boards. Some traditionalists are sceptical of radially sawn timber, including timber management, but they admit, 'Australia imports more than \$2 billion worth of softwood, so if the Yarram mill can make a hardwood dent into that it will be good.'

The Yarram mill is worth a look. Try 'Yarram Sawmill' on the Internet' or the last 5 or 6 minutes of the ABC's Landline on July 9<sup>th</sup>.