



Flitch 'n Chips

Official Newsletter of the Blackall Range Woodcrafters Guild Inc.
Issue No. 143

May 2009

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President's Column

Another busy month has passed and the next one is looming. Until I took on the position of President, I had no idea how valuable the Secretary and Treasurer's officers are to the fellow in the chair! My heartfelt thanks to Jeff and Keith.

We've just had another successful Maleny Woodwork Show. We sold lots of items and raffle tickets. More about raffle tickets and prizes inside this edition. I want to thank everybody who helped. In particular, I'd like to thank Bob Keyte, Cec Wakerley and Jacqui Porteous for their work, John Drew, Stan McCallum and Brian Harris for the use of their box trailers, and Kay Chambers for her work in preparing raffle tickets. Don't forget we're having a BBQ for new members on Sat 23 May. We'll be having a short clean up beforehand (sorry, that just slipped out) and possibly some equipment demos too. The mid-year Expo on July 4 and 5 is fast approaching. Have you made that prize-winning item yet? We also need some entries for the competition, so get stuck into it – if you're not sure about categories, see me. Tickets for the Brisbane Wood Show on 24 May have arrived, and there are only a few places left for the local forestry tour on 2 June.

On a more serious note, I must direct you to the discussion of safety issues that you will find in this issue.

As you will have noticed, this issue of Flitch 'N Chips is running later than usual. There are two reasons. Kay, our production person is away for two months. Secondly, our most important typist and computer operator Valerie, found herself in hospital at the time production usually begins. She is home again, slowly recovering after a week 'inside', and typing busily. Thank you very much Valerie for putting in the effort, and we wish you a speedy recovery.

Finally, Marty Bond, who runs Caloundra Signs and has regularly updated our Honour Boards without charge, has sold his business. Thanks Marty, and Good Luck.

All the Best, Dave Banister

Special Events

23 May	Clean up and BBQ
24 May	Trip to Brisbane
2 June	Forestry Tour
4-5 July	BRWG Annual Expo
3 Oct	MVA Gala Day
6 Dec	Christmas Party

Regular What's on When?

Shed Times	Mornings from 8:30 - 11:30
Mondays	General Activities
Tuesdays	Turning & Carving
Wednesdays	General Workshop & Toys
Thursdays	Furniture & Joinery
Saturdays	General Activities & Demos
General Meeting	2nd Monday of the month 9:30

Who's Who in BRWG Inc. 2008-2009

Patrons: Peter Wellington MP and Cr Jenny McKay

President	Dave Banister	5439 9113
Vice President	Cec Wakerley	5439 9862
Secretary	Jeff Harrison	5478 5692
Assistant Secretary	George Blowers	5441 1597
Treasurer	Keith Muirhead	5445 9037
Assistant Treasurers	Jacqui Porteous	5478 5071
	Tom Black	5478 5472
Newsletter Editors	Gerry Zwart (Editorial)	5445 7212
	Kay Chambers (Production)	5443 9631 (before 7pm)
Publicity Officer	Gerry Zwart	5445 7212
Recruitment Officer	Dave Banister	5439 9113
Safety Officers	Peter Simpson, Dave Banister	
Activity Officers	Ray Curry, Cec Wakerley, John Drew, John Clarke, Warne Wilson, Dave Banister, Peter Simpson, Bob Keyte, Keith Muirhead	
Shed Manager	Harry Wood	
Amenity Officer	Alan Boag	
Timber Sourcing	Ron Donald, George Blowers	
Timber Flow, Storage & Kiln Officers	Warne Wilson, Ron Donald	
Purchasing Officer	Cec Wakerley	
Librarian	Brian Holsworth	

Safety

Please remember that it is a club rule that there be at least three members present before any machinery is started or operated. This rule is for YOUR SAFETY.

Shed Captain Roster

May 2009

Monday		Wednesday		Thursday		Saturday	
4	Dave Banister	6	John Close	7	Lionel Tilley	9	Doug Skinner
11	Dave Banister	13	Bob Keyte	14	Terry Crowson	16	Dave Banister
18	George Blowers	20	Cec Wakerley	21	John Drewe	23	Warne Wilson
25	Harry Wood	27	Keith Muirhead	28	John Clarke	30	Peter Simpson

June 2009

Monday		Wednesday		Thursday		Saturday	
1	Dave Banister	3	John Close	4	Lionel Tilley	6	Doug Skinner
8	Dave Banister	10	Bob Keyte	11	Terry Crowson	13	Dave Banister
15	George Blowers	17	Cec Wakerley	18	John Drewe	20	Warne Wilson
22	Harry Wood	24	Keith Muirhead	25	John Clarke	27	Peter Simpson
29	Dave Banister						

TUESDAYS are organized by carvers incl. George Blowers and Tom Black.

If you can't make it on your day, please arrange for someone to swap with you!

Getting to Know You

As the shed needs a good tidy-up, and new members have not had much chance yet to get to know the old members, it has been decided to mix business with pleasure.

On Saturday May 23, we will organize a clean-up day, where old and new members will be able to get to know one-another. It will also be a good opportunity to find out who is capable of what!

Following the completion of the clean-up, we'll turn the whole venue into a happy 'welcome to new members' B.B.Q.

What a great opportunity to get to mix socially, and enjoy a good feed, but of course this will only be successful if as many members both old and new, take the opportunity to participate. For more details eg starting times, costs (if any) etc., watch the notice board.

NEW MEMBERS

No 388, Graham Shackell of Flaxton

No 389, Bob Aitken of Maleny


A BIG BRWG HUG for you both

Don't forget, in order to get the full value of your membership, ask question of the members of

longer standing. If you have a project of your own, show your plans to other members, and get their advice and ideas.

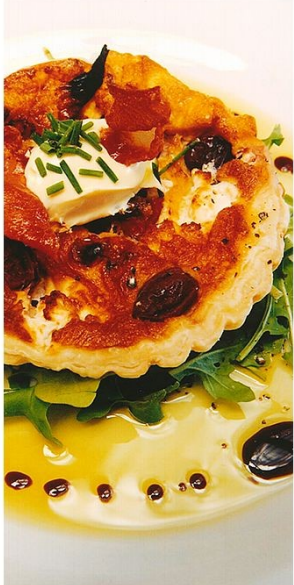
Another very good way to get to know the workings of our Guild, is by attending our monthly general meeting every second Monday of the month at 9.30am, at The Shed.

The next meeting will be on Monday June 8, the Queen's Birthday holiday. We know this will raise a few eye-brows, but we feel sure the Queen would be proud of us for not wasting a day, and instead doing something constructive.



mmm...

The food really is delicious!



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Update on the Brisbane Wood Show

As most of you know by now, the once a year 'WORKING with WOOD EXPO' will be on again shortly. This is a show well worth attending, where you will see the latest tools and techniques demonstrated, and if you really like what you see, you can even purchase some! Prices, as a rule, are competitive. **Bus tickets and show tickets are now available from President Dave**

Update on "What Tree is That?"

On Tuesday June 2, a local forestry tour has been organised. We will carpool to Mary Cairncross Park, and meet up with well-known forester Ashley Sewell, who will take us for a walk through the park, giving us a tree identification lesson, and telling us the names of trees and to what use we can put the timber.

The normal charge for this is \$20, which will include a 'smoko' at the kiosk!

There are still a few spaces left, so please let Dave know whether you are interested as soon as possible.

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Update on the Mid-Year Club Expo

The time has now come to seriously get moving on some art work for this mid-year event. This is an important date on our calendar P.R. wise, and financially. Besides making money for our Club, it is also an avenue for members to sell their wares.

The dates are July 4 and 5, and the venue will be the Montville Village Hall, an excellent location to attract some foreign money via the wandering tourists.

Speaking from past experience, few tourists will load themselves up with large, heavy items. Keep many of them souvenir size and you will sell. Also, don't forget, besides sales, there is also an exhibition section, where members can win valuable prizes.



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CHAINSAWS: The right way to start your chainsaw

Article 3 of 11

The first rule for starting a chainsaw is probably the most important.

NEVER “drop-start” a chainsaw. Drop-starting means holding the machine with the left hand on the front handle, the right hand holding the starter cord, then allowing the machine to drop.

This is a recipe for disaster. You have only one hand actually controlling the machine. If you lose your footing, there is nothing to stop you falling on to the moving chain.

The proper procedure is to lay the saw on the ground, make sure there's nothing touching the bar and chain, place one foot through the handle to hold it firmly, bend down to hold the front handle with your left hand, then with the right hand give a straight upward pull on the starter cord.

When pulling the starter cord, take up the slack first then pull it in a firm, smooth action. Don't jerk it.

Before you do this, however, make sure the ignition is turned on, the throttle is set at half lock, and the choke is in the full “on” position for a cold engine start.

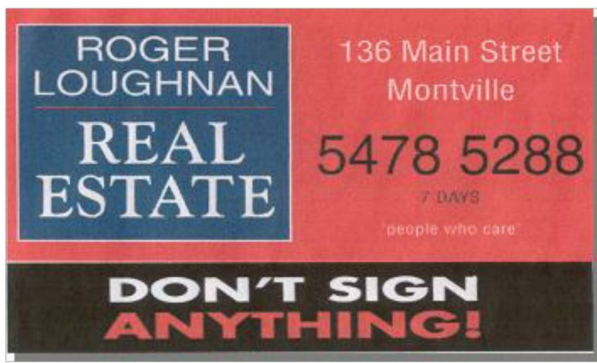
The engine should be pulled over until it fires. However, it's not necessary for the engine to run before the choke is opened. If you continue pulling over the engine with the choke on after it has fired, then you will “flood” the carburettor, making it almost impossible to start again immediately.

Because chainsaw engines are made of magnesium alloy, they cool very quickly. If left on for about 10 minutes after running, you must do a cold re-start – choke full on, etc.

NOTE FOR LEFT-HANDERS: Sorry, but chainsaw manufactures don't design special saws for left-handed people. You'll just have to learn to operate the machine in the right-handed way – left hand on the front handle; right hand on the rear handle. This will position you on the correct side of the guide bar so that all safety features work in your favour. Operating the saw the other way round is courting disaster because it puts you right alongside the cutting chain.

NEXT: Using your chainsaw efficiently and safely

Mr Ed



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Timber flow and Storage

We are still waiting on the electrician to install the new kiln timers. This has held up drying as the fans are being switched on manually, but not every day.

Generally, we have good supplies of the most popular timbers though the best quality camphor laurel seems to have been used up, leaving a large quantity of slabs with less colour in the racks. In the next few weeks, I will be calling for helpers to cut these slabs into usable timber. Ron Donald has been slabbing some big logs of camphor in the yards and these new green slabs are showing excellent colour.

We have a good quantity of dry red bean on hand in the outside racks plus the large amount of dry red cedar which was generously donated to us. George Blowers has delivered some big section pine slabs which will be very useful for cabinet framing. We have a large quantity of Silky Oak and White Cedar in the racks.

I have reorganised the racks of shorts and offcuts in the annex to provide more space and to clean up the area. I have started giving away smaller shorts which have defects and are dark with age and have been rejected in the racks for years.

Remember that the process for buying timber is easy. Just select the piece or pieces you want then ask any of the office bearers (the guys with the extra tags on their badges) to measure and calculate the cost. Pay on the day. Sorry, no IOUs.

As can be judged from the above, lack of timber

choice is no longer an excuse for not producing some of those magnificent creations for which the Blackall Range Woodcrafters have become famous. 'Into it Girls and boys!' We need a good stock to show off at the July Expo.

Warne Wilson, Timber Flow and Storage

Non-Member and Other Safety Issues

At our last general meeting it was stressed by the Shed Managers, that non-members are NOT TO OPERATE any of the club equipment at ANY TIME!

We were also reminded that a minimum of three members have to be present before any equipment is used or turned on.

These rules are to safeguard the individuals concerned, as well as for insurance purposes.

A REMINDER – Once again for safety sake, we have provided a number of non-slip mats.

Unfortunately, they are not being used, although it is the member's own responsibility to be aware of safety procedures.

This includes CORRECT FOOTWEAR.

On a further safety note, we are still in discussion with the Montville Village Association regarding our request to be allowed to set up a second container, to be used for storing flammable liquids.

Wood Turning Booklet

Rick Vickers and Paul Sidell have put a most informative and very professional booklet together on wood turning, which has been very well received. If you've not seen it yet, ask Dave Banister.

Well done fellows, keep up the good work.

General Announcements

- It has been suggested that we conduct demonstrations on the correct use of equipment. This should happen at least once every quarter.
- Our Accreditation Officers are quite happy to continue the accreditation process, however, they are not to be used as training officers. We have a number of experts on most machines to look after training.
- Do you know how to sharpen your tools correctly? Maybe you think you do, but in any case, a course in the correct sharpening of tools is being organized. Watch this space for details.

- One for your diary. The date of this years Christmas event has been set at Sunday December 6. Keep your eye on the board, or you may even get the details in the Flitch 'N Chips.
- To keep our profile as Santa's Helpers in Santa's workshop, we need to keep up the supply of toys.
- Anyone with no project for themselves or any new member who really wants to learn a lot of tricks of the trade, drop into the shed on a Wednesday morning and seek out the Chief Toy Boy Don Meredith. He'll give you a job and in the not too distant future you will know how to handle most machinery relating to the production of smaller items. Give it a try.



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Gala Day (not galah!)

The Montville Village Association in conjunction with the tenants of the sports-ground, is planning a fund raising event on the premises. Funds raised will go towards upkeep and improvements of the grounds. Hopefully this could be the start of a permanently improved roadway leading to our Shed.

As tenants of this venue, we will be asked to partake in running this day, loosely called a GALA DAY!

So far we have not yet been informed about the format of the event. We will leave those details to our landlords (Sports Ground Trustees), the Montville Village Association. According to the MVA, the Gala day is to raise funds for maintenance of the sports ground and to raise awareness of this community asset and the groups who use it on a regular basis. The MVA anticipate that the event will have the Police Band , Maleny Choir, and the schools Area Band, The only positive information we have so far is the date. Saturday October 3. As this is also the Zwart's 56th wedding anniversary, let's turn it into a real party, darn it, who said there's a Recession! Come one, come all. Watch this space, and/or the notice board for more details.

Lionel Tilley repairing the drum sander.



Bob Keyte on the pram assembly line:



2009 WOODCRAFT EXPO RAFFLE

Tickets in our Expo Raffle will be sent out to members shortly. The draw will be held on Sunday 5 July, 2009 at 3pm, during our Club Expo at the Montville Village Hall.

There are three beautifully handcrafted prizes, each of equal value.



Solid Red Cedar Blanket Box



High Chair and Change Table in Camphor Laurel

One for the ladies

One day my housework-challenged husband decided to wash his SweatShirt. Seconds after he stepped into the laundry room, he shouted to me, 'What setting do I use on the washing machine?'

'It depends,' I replied. 'What does it say on your shirt?'

He yelled back, ' Liverpool .'

And they say wood turners are dumb...



Hardwood Garden Seat

Another one

A couple are lying in bed. The man says, 'I am going to make you the happiest woman in the world.'

The woman replies, 'I'll miss you...'