

167 Main St, Montville
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Fritch 'n Chips

Official Newsletter of the Blackall Range Woodcrafters Guild Inc.

Issue No. 148

October 2009

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President's Column

Good day everybody. Let me begin by reminding you of the upcoming Montville pre-Christmas Sale. This is a great opportunity for people to buy good quality woodwork at great prices. The sale will be on Sat 7 and Sun 8 November. Yes, it's a bit early, but we couldn't hire the

hall any later. We will set up on the afternoon of Friday 6 November. A call for volunteers is now up on the Shed whiteboard

In this issue you will find our first Machinery Maintenance Damage & Repairs Report produced by Brian Harris. Yes, the name of the report is a bit of a mouthful, but it's part of our effort to open up the activities of the club, in particular, those activities that would otherwise go on "behind the scenes".

I'd also like to thank Brian Harris for his fabulous job in repairing and refurbishing the drill press that was donated to us last month. The drill now positively glows! I'd like also to thank Peter Simpson, Peter Dallimore and Max Barringer for their recent efforts. Last, but certainly not least, I'd again like to thank George and Jill Blowers for their conspicuous presence around the club, and for putting up their hands when anything needs done.

The recent absence of both the Vice President and Treasurer gave rise some confusion over what makes a properly constituted Management Committee meeting and the validity of any decisions made by such a meeting. The Guild has full meetings every month, which is usually often enough. But sometimes decisions need to be made urgently and can't wait until the next scheduled monthly meeting. Later in this newsletter, you will find Peter Dallimore's motion to both to expand the Management Committee and to make its membership more flexible. It will also specify more regular meeting dates. It is important that all members know that this is happening. The motion will be voted on at the the November 9 general meeting.

On another matter entirely, please make use of the Guild Notice Board to advertise items for sale. At the end of the next monthly meeting the notices will also be copied and put into the next newsletter. See Bob Cairn's ad this month.

Please also note that the date of the Christmas Party has been changed from Sunday 6 December to Saturday 12 December. Therefore, please also adjust your diary. The Christmas Party is where a good time is had by all.

– All the Best, Dave Banister

Shed Times

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

Special Events

6, 7, 8 Nov	Montville Christmas Sale
12 Dec	Christmas Party

New Members

No 404	Robert Schmidt of Woombye
No 405	Andrew Fairburn of Witta
No 406	Steve Chaddock of Witta
No. 407	Donald James of Elaman Creek
No. 408	Bernard Vanneste of Parrearra
No. 409	Antara May of Booroobin
No. 410	Ed May of Booroobin

A big BRWG welcome to you all

Have you got yourself a mentor yet? Some friendly face to help you round the shed. If not, next time you're at the shed, find out who is the Shed Captain that day, and ask them. They will oblige.

Have a look at the list of Accreditation Officers that appears later in this issue. Get the Shed Captain to point them out and introduce you. Ask the Accreditation Officer what they need you to do to get authorised access to machinery.

Guild History


A revised and updated version of the official guild history has just been printed. It's packed with fascinating information and insights. If you are a new member and haven't been given a copy, please ask for one. If you are an existing member, you can get one for a very reasonable \$5. Great Value!

Shed Captain Roster

October 2009							
Mondays		Wednesdays		Thursdays		Saturdays	
5	Dave Banister	7	Bob Keyte	8	Lionel Tilley	10	Doug Skinner
12	Ray Curry	14	Cec Wakerley	15	John Drewe	17	Dave Banister
19	Dave Banister	21	Keith Muirhead	22	Terry Crowson	24	Warne Wilson
26	George Blowers	28	John Close	29	John Clarke	31	Peter Simpson
November 2009							
2	Dave Banister	4	Bob Keyte	5	Lionel Tilley	7	Doug Skinner
9	Ray Curry	11	Cec Wakerley	12	John Drewe	14	Dave Banister
16	Dave Banister	18	Keith Muirhead	19	Terry Crowson	21	Warne Wilson
23	George Blowers	25	John Close	26	John Clarke	28	Peter Simpson
30	Dave Banister						

TUESDAYS are organized by carvers including George Blowers.

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



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Adjusting and Resetting Machinery

At the October monthly meeting, I expressed my concerns about the use of machinery:

- Some members are adjusting machinery that simply doesn't need adjusting.
- If necessary adjustments have been made, then members should reset the machines appropriately.

For the pieces of machinery I have in mind, I would like to make the following observations:

- Bandsaws: the only adjustment you should ever make is to the height.
- Jointers: you should only ever need to adjust either (i) the rise and fall on the infeed table or (ii) the width.

If you do feel the need to make other changes, then approach the Shed Captain or Shed Manager first.

Secondly, for some other items, where adjustments are more common, and when you have finished using these items, I suggest the following resetting:

- For the combination saw:
 - set the angle back to 90°
 - the blade height to full
 - put the guard back if removed
 - set the sliding table angle back to 90°
- For the sliding compound mitre (aka docking) saw:
 - set the angle back to 90°
 - the tilt to vertical
 - the height back to full cut.
- For the thicknessers:
 - set the thickness back to around 25mm.

Finally, don't try to force the machines. Let the blades do the work.

— John Holland

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MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE: INFORMATION for MEMBERS

Background:

Due to the recent absence of the Vice President and Treasurer, some confusion existed over the make up of the Management Committee and decision-making authorities. The following changes are proposed to cover such eventualities in the future.

1 Membership of the Management Committee

The constitution states that the Management Committee shall consist of the President, Vice President and Treasurer and "such number **or** other members as members of the association at any general meeting from time to time may appoint" Currently the BRWG Management Committee consists of the President, Vice President and Treasurer.

It is proposed to expand the Management Committee to include the Secretary (provided that the Secretary is a member of the Guild) and the two Shed Managers. This will take the total membership to six.

To cover absentees it is proposed to nominate the Assistant Treasurer and Assistant Secretary as replacements for the Treasurer and Secretary if they are absent.

Resolution to be put to November General Meeting

1. That the membership of the Management Committee currently consisting of the President, Vice President and Treasurer be expanded to include the Secretary (provided that the Secretary is a member of the Guild) and the two Shed Managers.
2. That in the event of the unavailability of the Treasurer the Assistant Treasurer will act for the Treasurer and that in the event of the unavailability of the Secretary the Assistant Secretary will act for the Secretary.

2 Frequency of Meetings (for the information of members)

The constitution requires that the Management Committee shall meet at least every two months and provides for the Committee to decide on the frequency of meetings. It also lays down a fairly onerous procedure if special meetings are called. To provide the necessary decision making flexibility, given the dynamic nature of BRWG and to conform to the constitution, weekly Management Committee meetings will be scheduled. A meeting need not proceed if there is no business to attend to. The minutes will simply record this fact. The Management Committee will delegate authority to one or more BRWG members (i.e. Shed Captains) to act alone on critical items. In this case the Management Committee will be briefed on the action at its next meeting.

CHAINSAWS: Tuning is Tricky Article 8 of 11

After a long period of operation, or even if you haven't used your chainsaw for some time, you might feel that it is not performing as well as it has done in the past.

You've done the basic checks of fuel, filters, ignition and you're satisfied these are in order. Then maybe it's time for an engine tune.

If you feel your chainsaw engine needs tuning, set the main jet and the low speed jet according to the manufacture's recommendations. If the saw is not running smoothly at these settings, it might require the attention of your local chainsaw dealer to properly tune the machine, because a rev counter must be used to make the settings accurately.

DON'T try to tune "by ear". This can cause the engine to over-rev, with the possibility of seizure. Remember that an over-revving engine is NOT producing more power. Chainsaw engines are designed to produce their maximum power at an **optimum** level of engine speed, neither more nor less.

A CAUTION: The latest model chainsaws are fitted with transistorised ignition, which has the advantage of requiring no maintenance and being extremely efficient and reliable. However, there are some things you must not do with the transistorised systems:

DON'T pull the spark plug from the cylinder, then put the high-tension cable on the plug and turn the engine to see if the plug sparks. The result could be:

3. The chainsaw will catch fire
4. The ignition system will burn out if the spark plug is not grounded properly.

Correct tuning of a modern, high-performance small two-stroke motor as used in a chainsaw is a job for an expert, not an enthusiastic amateur.

NEXT – The Electric Chainsaw

– Mr Ed

Spotted any Leaks?

John Holland has been up on the Shed roof trying to seal leaks with silicone. Next time it rains, and you spot a leak, then let him know.

Timber flow and Storage

The warmer weather is increasing the efficiency of drying in the kiln, and the new method of bolting down the green slabs has led to much better results with a large reduction in warping problems. Those dry slabs now in the racks, and which were removed from the kiln in September, are free of serious warping, and the higher proportion of usable timber will add real value for the Guild.

Ron Donald has been slabbing regularly due to the fine weather. We now have growing stacks of green slabs ready for the next kiln loading. Green timber in these stacks includes Jacaranda, Camphor Laurel and Queensland Maple.

An up-to-date timber price list is now in use. A copy appears below. Members should remember the following points:

- Slabs and other timber may be cut cross-grain provided the remaining offcut is not less than 1200mm. An additional \$3.00 is payable otherwise.
- Timber sales to non-members carry a 20% surcharge.
- Please ensure that all timbers taken from the shed must be paid for that day. Timber may be left in the shed, with the member's name clearly marked, to reserve the timber of one week.

– *Warne Wilson*

Buying Timber?

The procedure for buying timber is as follows:

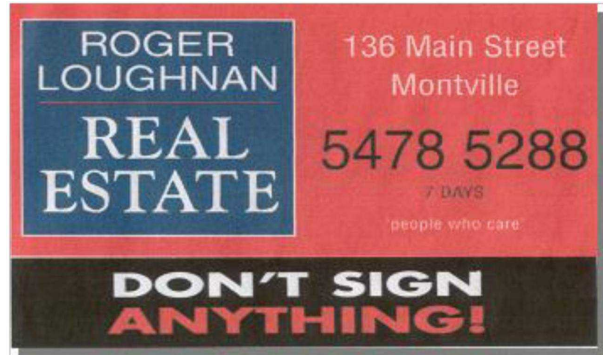
- First, select the timber you want to purchase
- Contact one of the members authorised to calculate costing (see below).
- Do not cut the timber yourself beforehand.
- The authorised member will measure the timber in your presence and quote a price that allows for any defects.

The people with the authority to cost and sell timber are:

- Shed managers
- Shed captains
- Activity officers

Timber Prices per Cubic Metre

Bunya & local pine	\$1000.00
Camphor & Flooded Gum	\$1250.00
Silky Oak, White Cedar, Jacaranda and Mango	\$1500.00
Karri Pine	\$2000.00
Red Bean	\$2600.00
Red Cedar	\$3000.00
Yellow Wood	\$3000.00
Add 20% premium for non-members	



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Eh?

Jack, an elderly woodworker, feared his wife, Becky, was getting hard of hearing.

So one day Jack called her doctor to make an appointment to have her hearing checked. The GP made an appointment for a hearing test in two weeks, and said that meanwhile there's a simple test the husband could do to give the doctor some idea of the state of her problem.

Here's what you do, said the Doctor, "Start out about 40 feet away from her, and in a normal conversational speaking tone see if she hears you. If not, go to 30 feet, then 20 feet, and so on until you get a response.

That evening, the wife is in the kitchen cooking dinner, and he's in the living room. He thinks to himself that he is about 40 feet away. "Let's see what happens," he mutters.

Then in a normal tone he asks, "Dear, what's for supper?" No response. So Jack moves to the other end of the room, about 30 feet from Becky and repeats, "Dear, what's for supper?"

Still no response.

Next he moves into the dining room where he is about 20 feet from Becky and asks, "What's for supper, dear?"

Again he gets no response. So he walks up to the kitchen door, only 10 feet away. "What's for supper, dear?" Again there is no response. So he walks right up behind her. "What's for supper, dear?"

She replies, "For God's sake, Jack! For the FIFTH TIME. I SAID CHICKEN!"

Homage to Bonnie Scotland

You should be careful about stereotyping the Scots as mean. There was a recent letter to an Aberdeen newspaper which said "If you print any more jokes about mean Scotsmen I shall stop borrowing your paper."

Why are they putting Englishmen at the bottom of the ocean?
They found out that deep down, they're really not so bad.

Sign at a Scottish golf course: "Members will refrain from picking up lost balls until they have stopped rolling."

Two Scots woodies are in the Shed alone, when one of them collapses. He doesn't seem to be breathing and his eyes are glazed.

The other woodie gets out his phone and calls triple-0. "Ah think ma pal's deed! What can ah doo?", he gasps. "Calm down" says the operator, "I can help. First, let's make sure he's dead."

There is silence, then a chainsaw is heard. Back on the phone, the woodie says: "Orright, now what?"

A border collie dog goes into a telegram office in Glasgow, picks up a blank form and writes: "Woof. Woof. Woof. Woof. Woof. Woof. Woof. Woof." The clerk examines the form and kindly tells the dog: "There are only nine words here. You could send another Woof for the same price." "But," the collie replies, "that would make no sense at all."

Q. How do you get two bagpipes to play in perfect unison?
A. Shoot one.

Robbie and Angus are golfing on a lovely day when Rob misses an easy putt. "Dammit!" he exclaims. "Missed the wee bugger!" "Oh you shouldn't use language like that," warns Angus. "God'll strike you down with a bolt of lightning." Robbie grumbles and ignores his friend. A few moments later Angus is getting ready to putt when a lightning bolt shoots straight out of the sky and strikes him dead. God exclaims: "Dammit! Missed the bugger!"

Och Aye the Noo!!

Maintenance record for machinery

09/09/09	Faulty motor removed from drum sander. Taken by Dave Banister for repair.
12/09/09	Donated pillar drill refurbished. Post was secured into base with turned hardwood block (Paul Sidall). Seized and rusted bush on idler wheel was freed. Broken handle replaced. Motor slide bushes cleaned and motor realigned. New belts fitted. \$35.20 All was cleaned and part re-sprayed.
16/09/09	Repaired Motor (faulty cut-out switch) refitted to drum sander.
19/9/09	Post drill, idler bush freed and lubricated, new belts required.
23/09/09	2 new 'V' belts fitted to 6 foot post drill. \$17
23/09/09	New 10" sanding disc fitted to belt sander.
26/09/09	Lower thrust bearing renewed as former had seized, on band saw No. 2.
26/09/09	New blade fitted to Wadkin band saw. Guides adjusted and aligned, table centred and table guide groove machined.
03/10/09	Sanding belt renewed on belt sander.
03/10/09	Portamill serviced and blade re-sharpened.
10/10/09	New drive chain fitted to Portamill.
12/10/09	Further adjustments to the guides on the Wadkin band saw.
12/10/09	Slight adjustment to the cutting angle of the Wood Wiz to reduce the stepping.

— Brian Harris


Brian Harris

As well as maintaining our new register of machinery damage and repairs, Brian Harris is our newest Activity Officer. He offers this potted biography. "Born and educated in London. Further education in 7 trades at the Brixton School of Building. Worked for father in his Garage and Engineering business. Moved with parents to a farm they had bought in Sussex. Married and built a lowset, doing all bricking, plumbing, electrics, 1st & 2nd fixings. Worked 27 years for new car distribution companies, both driving 12 car transporters and driver training then in the office on allocation. Took early retirement. Refurbished two houses before living in them doing total replumbing and rewiring. Something you cannot now do in the UK without endless paperwork and certificates. Finally moved from the UK to Flaxton in 2008 and found Woodies. Best move ever I think."

Accreditation Officers		
Tool	Authorised Officers	Remarks
Table Saws	John Holland, Doug Skinner, Harry Wood, Warne Wilson, Ray Curry, John Close, Peter Simpson, Don Kitson	Excludes large breaking down saw
Mitre Saws	John Holland, Doug Skinner, Harry Wood, Warne Wilson, Ray Curry, John Close, Don Kitson	
Jointer	John Holland, Doug Skinner, Harry Wood, Warne Wilson, Ray Curry, John Close, Don Kitson	
Band Saws	John Holland, Doug Skinner, Harry Wood, Warne Wilson, Ray Curry, John Close, Lionel Tilley, Don Kitson	Excludes Wadkin Band Saw and Slabbing Band Saw
Planers	John Holland, Doug Skinner, Harry Wood, Warne Wilson, Ray Curry, John Close, Don Kitson	
Routers	John Holland, Harry Wood, Warne Wilson, Ray Curry, John Close	Includes Router Table
WoodWizz	John Holland, Doug Skinner, Harry Wood, Ray Curry, Don Kitson	
Sanding	John Holland, Doug Skinner, Harry Wood, Warne Wilson, Ray Curry, John Close, Dave Banister, Don Kitson	
Painting	Dave Banister	
Hand Tools	John Holland, Doug Skinner, Harry Wood, Warne Wilson,	

	Ray Curry, John Close, Don Kitson	
Lathes	Cec Wakerley, Warne Wilson, Ray Curry, Paul Siddal, Frank McDonald	

Who's Who in BRWG Inc. 2009-2010		
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 Treasurer	Peter Dallimore	
Newsletter Editors	Kay Chambers	5443 9631 (before 7pm)
	Dave Edmond	5478 6932
Publicity Officer	Gerry Zwart	5445 7212
Recruitment Officers	Dave Banister	5439 9113
	Lionel Tilley	
Events Organiser	Rick Vickers	
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, Brian Harris	
Shed Managers	Harry Wood, Doug Skinner, John Holland	
Amenity Officer	Alan Boag	
Timber Sourcing	Ron Donald, George Blowers	
Timber Flow, Storage & Kiln Officers	Warne Wilson, Ron Donald	
Purchasing Officer	Lionel Tilley	
Librarian	Brian Holsworth	



*mmm...
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