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Sept. 2011

Official Newsletter of Blackall Range Woodcrafter's Guild Inc
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Presidents Column



Hello Fellow Woodies.



The workshop continues to be quite busy, with plenty of members and club projects on the go. However, our financial records show a disturbing trend. Takings for 'Machinery Use' are significantly down from last year's figures. This, together with reports from Shed Captains that some members seem forgetful over paying for use of machines, prompts me to issue this reminder. It is a condition of membership that we pay the club's rates each time we use club equipment. This helps cover the large cost of maintaining machinery and replacing consumables. It is a good idea to anticipate machinery usage on arrival at the shed, pay up front and make any adjustments later if necessary. This way, we don't have to rely on memory!

The Committee has appointed a Timber Sub Committee to review and update our timber management system and handle day-to-day timber supply matters. There is more elsewhere in this newsletter, but I must emphasise that for the time being we will not be accepting logs, we will be reducing milling to a minimum to satisfy needs and no unmilled timber is to be brought to the shed.

You will notice a much improved timber storage system in the undercover area, put in place by John Holland and his enthusiastic team. Vertical storage allows easier access and identification of dried timber, so we hope members will begin to use greater quantities. Timber storage will continue to be a focus for the Timber Committee and there will be ongoing modifications over coming months.

The pre-Christmas Santa Shop is our next major event. Now is the time to advance personal or club projects to produce saleable items. Also, the 'Four-by-Two' competition showdown is fast approaching, so put the finishing touches on your masterpiece! (Its still not too late to enter if you haven't done so)

Happy woodworking,
Peter Simpson

Our thoughts are with our absent Woodies– may you soon be back with us creating sawdust

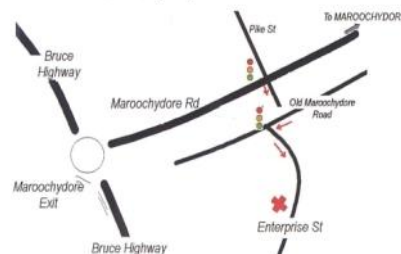
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Maybe if you're lacking inspiration for that next project, this might help.....



New member for this month

No.	Name
470	Peter Haslam Balmoral Ridge

“A Big Woodies Welcome”

Timber Management – The Way Ahead

At the Committee Meeting on 10 Sep 2011 a large group attended to discuss production, control of timber and 'future-proofing' our milling and storage. There was lively discussion on a broad range of details. The overall consensus at the meeting was to act now to update and stabilize our timber management.

In particular the group attending the meeting agreed as follows:

- to tie our rate of timber production (sourcing, storing logs, milling and storing sawn timber) to the rate of usage through the shed;
- to draw down our stocks of timber to prevent wastage through deterioration, selling some to other clubs if necessary;
- to design and develop a milling and storage capability that reliably meets our future steady-state needs; and
- to ensure that there is a succession of willing members understudying the experienced members.

The Management Committee has appointed a Timber Sub-Committee to work out how to achieve these objectives over time and to manage the day-to-day timber management issues of the Guild. Members are:

- John Holland (Shed Manager)
- George Blowers (Senior Timber Sourcer and Miller)
- Ron Donald (in-house slabbing)
- Phil Gibson (Timber Flow Officer)

All areas are equally vital to the Guild, however John has been named head of the Sub-Committee for the time being, in recognition of the overriding priority of the first objective – matching production with club needs.

There will be a general moratorium on accepting offers of logs. Until stocks have been sufficiently reduced, the Sub-Committee has sole authority to accept special logs only.

Members will be directed through Flitch & Chips that no unmilled timber is to be brought to the shed and that no member is to give an undertaking that the club will accept offers of logs.

Milling will be temporarily reduced to the minimum requirements until stocks have been sufficiently depleted.

In designing the future system, the Sub-Committee will have public safety in mind, as the solution has to eliminate the existing hazards to children in the vicinity of the shed.

There are no limitations on the scope of solutions. The following questions need to be answered:

- Broadly, should we mill/store at the shed, else where or both?
- Should we do it ourselves, or as partners with others?
- What would be the best off-site solution if required? For milling? For storage?
- What are our total needs per year?
- Can Ron's operation (or similar) meet our total needs?
- Should we revert to hiring a Lucas Mill twice yearly as before?
- Should we buy a Lucas Mill? If so, where would we put it?
- Should we explore enlarging/upgrading the slabbing bandsaw? Would it then meet our total needs?
- Should we buy a Dingo?
- Do we need to sell some stock to other clubs to manage oversupply? If so, how should we go about it? (notification, appropriate rates, control etc)

The Timber Sub-Committee will now manage decisions on day-to-day timber management matters.

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A Member Profile

In our recent Expo Competition, John Muller won Gold in the Open Section for Small Joinery. John details some of the story behind the piece.....

"LORRAINE'S DUTCHESS"

Two factors influenced the piece entered in this year's Expo; our interior designer's unrealistic suggestions for our bedroom furniture and my wife's desire to move away from the more traditional furniture I have always made in the past.

First, the designer. He designed the bedroom in blues with all black furniture and specified the wood to be Wenge. As I had planned to make all the furniture, and being a bit stingy, there was no way I was going to buy expensive imported wood when I had a rack full of good Aussie wood. Given the qualities of some of our species, the result would have to be better than Wenge? As it happened, we did purchase one piece from the designer, a round occasional table with a mirror top made in "Wenge". On closer examination; it was made of Radiata Pine with a black stain!

The species I used on the entire suite was Mararie, a medium hardwood grown in the Northern Rivers District and Atherton in NQ. Keith Bootle in "Wood in Australia" describes it as: "Heartwood rose-pink to mauve-brown with a fine and even texture". I got this wood from the Killarney area and had no idea of the fine furniture making qualities that it had. It is stable, lovely to work with using hand tools and its texture will provide a fine finish. The colour and grain is sometimes uninteresting so it lends itself beautifully to staining although it can provide a satisfying appearance a la natural.

The design of the piece was a combined effort influenced largely by Lorraine who insisted on a contemporary style. The result was a "flat box with two drawers suspended by four slender legs attached to the outer edges as if they are not a part of the design but a mere support system to provide functionality. The stool was designed to match with storage under the seat; reminiscent of a piano stool. The mirror is detached and hangs on the wall behind the piece. This was done to maintain the simple lines of the main piece and avoid "clutter".

To finish, it was easy to achieve a fine smooth surface on this species, going down to 800 grit paper and then hand application of a black stain. The stain was hand applied and the bulk wiped off so that the timber grain was still allowed to be a feature. A clear full gloss Mirotone lacquer was then applied.

This was a very enjoyable project to do and as it happens, I have to produce another as a result of a commission received during the Expo. Very nice.



Brent & Leanne Harris

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Maintenance Report from Brian Harris

August—Sept 2011



- 29/8 Triton Router - removed from table as one handle had been broken due to excessive force being used to turn it.
- 05/9 15" Thicknesser - All 74 blades rotated to expose new cutting face.
- 12/9 Triton Router - now repaired by Carba-tec and refitted to router table.
- 21/9 Drill Press – New chuck key supplied.
- 24/9 Drill Press – New crank handle fitted to rise and fall table.

WOODIES DEMONSTRATIONS

Machinery Use Update

Most of us develop a few bad habits when using our machinery as we find it faster, easier, smarter etc – its human nature! We're all taught how to use the machinery correctly so to bring members up to date (or where they should be anyway) we'll be introducing very short sessions on some Saturday mornings (10 minutes) on how to use the machinery correctly. These won't be accreditation sessions, just a reminder on how things should be done.

We'll let you know by email when they will be taking place &, as they will be short, they should not cause too much disruption to your Saturday morning timber terrorising activities.



Meanwhile.....

On Saturday 22nd October Ron Fishwick will be demonstrating how he prepares the pieces & puts together his mosaic pattern trays – he says its a simple exercise which uses up a lot of his 'throwaway' small bits of timber. It looks a complicated exercise so come along and find out how to make these very attractive pieces. Starts at 9am & should take 45-60 minutes.

Lionel Tilley
Training Officer

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Here is the latest update from the global traveller.....

Hi People,

I hope this finds everyone OK. Arrived Frankfurt on 31/7/11 after uneventful flight with Lufthansa, booked into a hotel near railway station and purchased a metro pass for 3 days. This covered all public transport including subway, buses, trams, trollies and ferries, etc. This has been my mode of getting around in every city to date, also if time allows then hop on –hop off tour buses.

I purchased a Eurail Global pass for \$1160(aud) and this gave me 15 travel days over 2 months to 22 countries, plus a swag of discounts and benefits too numerous to mention here. This rail system is mostly 1st class travel. Berlin was a blast, seeing where east & west met at checkpoint Charlie, and other touristy things—really makes you appreciate the freedom that we enjoy. After 3 days moved to Prague, via Dresden, following the great river that meanders from the North Sea through Germany and into Czech Republic. Prague is a history buffs delight, but the people associated with tourism here, in my opinion need lessons in education and politeness. Onto Vienna in Austria, the hospitality and pride in their surrounds was very noticeable here, a top destination. Onto Hungary, Budapest, stayed in Pest and enjoyed this city –this place has had many rulers throughout the centuries and has been divided up many times, Enjoyed a boat trip along the Danube River. They have a museum here called the House of Terror, and it covers in great detail the atrocities inflicted on these people by the Nazis and later by the Communists. Budapest to Zagreb in Croatia is a lovely train trip, skirting along a big lake in Hungary. After Zagreb through Slovenia and into Venice. WOW, if anybody wants a lesson in building in adverse conditions, then they should check this place out. I got lost here every time I wandered into an alley way. This is a maze of small canals and alleys, and numerous islands. Onto Rome, did the usual things but the Pope didn't have time to chat with me! Found things here overpriced and with beggars crawling around on the Vatican Square, things didn't add up. I was told that there's about 500 churches in Rome and about 2500 in Italy. Last night travelled to Civitavecchia an hour out of Rome and boarded a ferry to Porto Torres on Sardinia, then will be alighting in Barcelona Spain.

Having a memorable time.

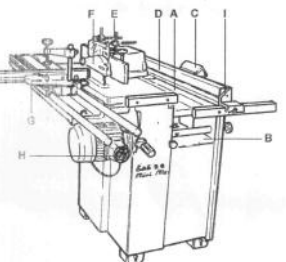
Love and best wishes to all,

Dave.....PS.XXXX for the sheilas.

If anyone has the need for a Mini Max Combined Universal Machine, Edsel Ward has just what you are looking for.

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Confucius Say.....

Man who leaps off cliff, jumps to conclusion.

Blackall Range Woodcrafters

Santa's Shop

Opens on 3 and 4 December 2011

at St Mary's Hall, Montville Green.

10 am to 3.30 pm

All members are asked to create some toys and uniquely crafted items in time for the opening of our Woodies Santa Shop. The public are looking for something special this Christmas and you can help them.

We will set up on the Saturday morning, and be open to register your items for sale from 8.30 onwards at the Hall. We will close up after 3 pm on Sunday afternoon.

Assistance is needed with:

Transport to and from the Shed with tables, BBQ etc

Setting out display tables and decorations with a Christmas atmosphere

Setting up of BBQ and tent

Registering items for sale

Setting out display items

Operating tea and coffee counter

Closing down on Sunday afternoon

Refurbishing St Mary's Hall

Volunteer jobs will be on the Shed Whiteboard

Dress: as Santa's helpers (elves) or anything with red and green, Christmas decorations.

Contact Rick Vickers for queries 5494 3555 or

rvickers@pacific.net.au

Retirees Questionnaire.....

Question: How many days in a week?

Answer: 6 Saturdays, 1 Sunday

Question: When is a retiree's bedtime?

Answer: Three hours after he falls asleep on the couch.

Question: How many retirees to change a light bulb?

Answer: Only one, but it might take all day.

Question: Among retirees what is considered formal attire?

Answer: Tied shoelaces.



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BRWG: Meeting Schedule for 2011-2012

- ◆ Meetings start at 9:30am.
- ◆ Quarterly General meetings are held on the second Saturdays of November, February, May and August.
- ◆ Otherwise, Management Committee meetings are held on the second Saturday of each month.
- ◆ The AGM is held on the second Saturday of August.

2011

September 10 Mgt
October 8 Mgt
November 12 General
December 10 Mgt

2012

January 14 Mgt
February 11 General
March 10 Mgt
April 14 Mgt
May 12 General
June 9 Mgt
July 14 Mgt
August 11 AGM & General



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Who's Who in BRWG Inc. 2011-2012

Patrons: Peter Wellington MP, Andrew Powell MP and Cr Jenny McKay

President	Peter Simpson	0414 447 543
Vice President	Warne Wilson	
Secretary	David Edmond	5478 6932
Assistant Secretary	Spike Bettega	
Treasurer	Bob Callinan	0403283432
Assistant Treasurer	Keith Muirhead	
Newsletter Editors/ Website	Max Barrenger	5476 6779
	Dave Edmond	5478 6932
Publicity Officer	Gerry Zwart	5445 7212
Recruitment Officers	Dave Banister	5439 9113
	Lionel Tilley	
Events Organiser	Rick Vickers	
Safety Officers	Dave Banister, Warne Wilson	
Activity Officers	Ray Curry, Cec Wakerley, John Drew, John Clarke, Warne Wilson, Dave Banister, Peter Simpson, Keith Muirhead, Brian Harris, Max Barrenger	
Shed Managers	John Holland, Brian Harris	
Amenity Officers	Alan Boag	
House Officer	Hamish Borthwick	
Timber Sourcing	TBA	
Timber Flow, Storage & Kiln Officers	TBA	
Purchasing Officer	John Holland	
Training Officer	Lionel Tilley	
Librarian	Brian Holdsworth	

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Shed Times 8.30—11.30

Mondays	General Activities
Tuesdays	Turning & Carving
Wednesdays	General Workshop & Toys
Thursdays	Furniture & Joinery
Fridays	General Activities
Saturdays	General Activities & Demos

Woodies Events 2011

EVENT	DATE 2011	LOCATION
Santa Shop	3 and 4 Dec	St Mary's Hall
Christmas Party	17 Dec	The Shed

Shed Captain Roster

September 2011

Mondays		Tuesdays		Wednesdays		Thursdays		Saturdays	
						1	Phil Krisanski	3	Peter Simpson
5	TBA	6	Ray Curry	7	Cec Wakerley	8	Terry Crowson	10	Warne Wilson
12	TBA	13	TBA	14	Leigh Boynton	15	John Drewe	17	Peter Simpson
19	Lionel Tilley	20	George Blowers	21	John Close	22	John Holland	24	Keith Muirhead
26	George Blowers	27	Tom Black	28	Max Barrenger	29	Phil Krisanski		

**** All Fridays = Frank McDonald

October 2011

Mondays		Tuesdays		Wednesdays		Thursdays		Saturdays	
31	Brian Harris							1	Peter Simpson
3	Brian Harris	4	Ray Curry	5	Cec Wakerley	6	Terry Crowson	8	Warne Wilson
10	Brian Harris	11	Frank McDonald	12	Leigh Boynton	13	John Drewe	15	Peter Simpson
17	Lionel Tilley	18	George Blowers	19	John Close	20	John Holland	22	Keith Muirhead
24	John Clarke	25	Tom Black	26	Max Barrenger	27	Phil Krisanski	29	Peter Simpson