



Flitch 'n Chips

Issue No. 210

December 2014

Presidents Report

Hi Fellow Woodies,

Well here we are, Christmas once again and the final President's column for the year. What a great end to the year we had with a very successful Santa Shop thanks to Bruce Chapman who coordinated and everyone else who assisted, a terrific Christmas Party and the Toy Boys and Girls with over 1000 toys to their credit, what a fantastic effort! TV Channel 7 filmed at the Santa Shop and also at the Shed at the handover of the toys to the Salvation Army. I'm informed that the footage should be aired on Christmas Day on the local Channel 7 Sunshine Coast news.



A Star in the making!!!!

The toy boys and girls are looking for new ideas for toys, so put on your thinking caps, nothing too intricate as children always seem to enjoy the basics when it comes to wooden toys. Also, if you have any suggestions to make the club even better than it is, then please let me know.

The Shed will be closed Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Years Day with normal hours every other day.

I know that it is extremely early to be thinking about next year's club Christmas party but Flaxton Gardens is already booked out for Friday and Saturday nights in December and can only offer us a Thursday night. What are your thoughts about a Thursday night party or should we be seeking another venue for a Friday or Saturday night. Please let me know ASAP at mcdonaldfp@gmail.com as all venues seem to fill as quickly as Flaxton Gardens has done.



To any members not feeling the best at the moment remember, we're thinking of you and wish you all a speedy recovery. If there's anything the Club can do for you, please let us know.

Keep the wood pile low and the shavings high.

A very Merry Christmas to everyone and a Happy and Healthy New Year. Hope to see you all in 2015.

Happy Woodworking,
Frank McDonald
President



AUSTRALIA DAY EXPO MALENY



A very successful 'come and see' day was held at the Maleny Showgrounds Australia Day in 2014 where more than 57 different interest groups gathered to let the general public know what is available for them in the Maleny area.

The displays, of which we were one, covered sporting groups, service clubs, book clubs, bridge clubs, and theatre groups and just about anything which involves peoples' interests. It was very successful and will be held again in 2015 with our Guild participating to showcase what we do.

Help will be needed to erect our display by 7.30am & the event will close about 12.30. Members, dressed in club shirts, will be needed to man (or woman!) our display as we get asked lots of questions as well do active demonstrations of turning & carving.

As it is an Australia Day event, at 8am there will be a flag raising ceremony at the Naval Cadets unit then a Citizenship Ceremony about 8.30 when new Australian citizens are presented with their certificates of citizenship.

More details will be available later but please keep it mind as the more helpers we have, the merrier (or something like that).

Lionel Tilley

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**Around the Shed
this month**



A group not to be toyed with! This year over 1000 toys were produced by the BRWG Toy Persons and the Mapleton Craft Group. Don Meredith receives this years Certificate of Appreciation. What will the total be next year?????



The winner of this years Santa Shop Raffle was Marilyn Whyte seen here receiving the prize from its maker Hugh McKenna.



And Hugh also produced this beautiful chair (under the watchful eye of Tutor Rob Otto).

Howzat? Sarah Hodges created a special lamp for a cricket tragic in her family.



A group of Woodies, John Holland, John Clarke, Ray Bryant and Dave Banister produced a set of bookshelves for the Blackall Range Horseless Carriage Club and the "3 Johns" Muller, Holland and Clarke presented them to Secretary Brian James and President Des.



COURSES 2015

Turning –
Our keen turning tutor Ivan Yaksich is offering a range of turning courses starting early in 2015. The sheets are up on the white board so if you are keen please add your name to help Ivan decide when to start each course.

The 4 turning courses on offer will be –

Novice turning Giant pepper mill Lidded Box
Cheese platter

Scroll Saw

Using this piece of equipment can be tricky, but very rewarding, so if you're interested in learning the technique put your name on the sheet on the white board. Max Barrenger will start a course when he has sufficient numbers enrolling.

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Let's tell you about Keith Muirhead, Member No 114 from the Blackall Range Woodcrafters Guild so you can get to know about one of the most interesting blokes in our group.



Keith joined up with the Woodies in 2002; he says his wife was tending to the wife of a gentleman, who said that he knew a lot of Muirheads in the Montville area and was a member of the Woodies. Keith, at the time was tracing his family tree, found out that the Woodies were holding an open day, and went to have a chat. Looking for another hobby, Keith was "pushed through the door" by his dear wife Phyl who recognized the fascination and challenge that woodwork would present to Keith (and keep him out of the kitchen on retirement). He will be eternally grateful to her (as she will be to the Woodies).

"Making something practical out of nothing is a great achievement for me. To convert a lump of timber into a piece of fine furniture gives me enormous satisfaction. The Woodies has taught me how to do that after I managed to turn a lot of "lumps of wood" into smaller and smaller "lumps of wood."

I met others at the Woodies who were exactly like me (new) and yet after a couple of years, were able to make purely beautiful work. I said then "I'm going to do that too!!"

Keith returned to the Sunshine Coast in 1995 (he's originally a Nambour lad), joining the Woodies in 2002, when our existing Shed was opened and three times held the position of Treasurer after that date. After a lifelong career in the Queensland Public Service, mainly in the Public Curator's Office, Keith had had enough of transferring around the State and was ready to take on building a quieter life with friends and close family. The Woodies opened up the opportunity to meet up with great people and provided the "welcome mat" at the door that he simply values beyond words.

As an officer for the Queensland Public Trustee, what was the question you were most often asked?

*"How much was left to me?"
Sometimes it would vary to simply "Is that all?" Or "when do I get it?"*

Is it true that many people seem to have little or no idea about Wills?

"Yes that's right. There are many. But also many don't realize the consequences of not having a proper will. I remember a story about an old lady who left all of her bank accounts to her cat when she died. A home-made Will. Great thought but the cat could not sign for it. She died intestate; no, not interstate (as some think is the meaning) and without a proper will. Always a problem.

Some say they get a lot out of being a member of the Woodies? What is the most that you get out of being a member?

"Lasting and solid friendships mainly. Apart from being able to now accurately turn a piece of wood in a lathe without flinging it into a bin with the other "lumps of wood"! A real sense of achievement is the best thing I get from the Woodies".

And the best piece of woodworking you personally prize?

"I made a high chair for my Grandkids. A proud moment for me as this was a hell of a challenge for a previous officer of the Public Trustee. Then I made another, then another, and they were all great. Never made anything like that before. The Club chose one of the chairs as the prize in their raffle. Wow!"

What about the mistakes in woodworking? We all make them. What is your worst one?

"I have too many to judge which is the worst. If there was a market for wooden bowls without bottoms, I'd make a killing. Or chairs with legs that cause a seat to "wobble". I reckon I could make a great "wobbly seat". Wish there was a market for that!"

What is a word that best describes you?

"Sincere"

What does that mean?

"No bull shit".

What do you read? And what gives you the inspiration?

"Science fantasy. Not to be confused with science fiction. Science fiction covers space travel, life on other planets and of course aliens. Most of this can be related to life on earth but transposed to another planet. Fantasy is more dragons, wizards goblins etc. Think Lord of the Rings, the Hobbit and the like.

I also enjoy historical books or those which incorporate a possible historical content including places that are identifiable in the present. Books by Wilbur Smith and Robert Ludlum are examples.

Travel books and brochures are great also. Gives me ideas as to where I can go on my next holiday. I enjoy cruising and have just ordered a new caravan to have a Captain Cook at Australia.

And who is your favourite author?

"I don't really have just one. At the moment I am reading a series by Morgan Rice (The Sorcerer's Ring) and have just purchased the first three books in a series by Robin Hobb".

Why?

"I enjoy the escapism of the fantasy. In the past I read science fiction, but found it to be moving from a realistic possibility, to something that was very unrealistic. The older writers are slowly dying off or appear to have changed directions. But who knows, perhaps tomorrow, I will consider other literary genre".

Do you draw inspiration from anyone in particular, that you have either read about or met?

"No. If something takes my fancy, I give it a go. You might say I get my encouragement to find answers from everywhere".

If you had a handful of kids about you and you were giving advice, what would you say to them?

"Don't die wondering. Get in and provided it is legal, give it a go".

What do you mean by that?

"Too many of us go through life without ever knowing what we can be capable of. I think it was Richard Branson who once said: "You don't learn to walk by following rules. You learn by doing, and by falling over". Absolutely true advice!

See you tomorrow!"

Tips and Tricks

By Warne Wilson

Ever puzzled over the length of shelf span when building a bookcase? There are several considerations:

1. What sort of load will the shelves be expected to support? Will it be thick heavy books, or light sports trophies? A metre of average sized books will weigh about 30 kilos!
2. What material will I use? Chipboard, Ply, or solid timber? If solid timber, what sort? Hardwoods are stronger than softwoods.
3. Will the shelves be strengthened with supports such as attached timber front edges and screws through the back of the case?

The following table will give a rough guide to the maximum span for a 250mm wide shelf full of books:

Shelf Material	Maximum Span
19mm Chipboard	600mm
19mm Plywood	750mm
19mm Solid wood	900mm
30mm Solid wood	1500mm
19mm Plywood reinforced with: 30mm wide face strip on edge	900mm
30mm wide face strip on side	800mm

Because different materials and methods of support vary enormously, there is no set rule, however this table may be used as a starting point to help you with your plan.

Safety Notes

By Warne Wilson and Dave Banister



A few safety reminders this month;

We have quite a big organisation, compared to many woodies clubs, and to ensure its smooth working, it is important that we are all aware of club rules. From time to time over the years, accidents and incidents have occurred which have caused the committee to lay down decisions about shed routines and safety practices. This month I have listed four of the rules to refresh members' memory of them:

1. Stout shoes or boots should be worn in the shed. Wood is heavy and a hazard when being handled; footwear that offers little or no protection to sensitive toes is not permitted in and around the shed.

2. Many of us like to watch the Holland saw team turning logs into slabs. It is a fascinating sight, but remember to stay behind the witches hats which define the working area – in the event of a catch or a blade break, bystanders, or someone walking through the perimeters instead of walking round, may risk injury.

3. The drum sander; a cause of much frustration to our machinery maintenance engineer; Brian Harris. Members are constantly overloading this machine, ruining the wrap of heavy expensive sandpaper which has to be replaced. A five-minute refresher on how to use this machine is easy and welcome – just ask the shed captain for the day.

4. Pre-used timber is not permitted to be recycled through our machines. Paint will gum up blades and sanders. Hidden nails can do expensive damage.

Newer members may not understand that the shed and its wonderful range of machines has been worked for and purchased across some eighteen years of shows and sales and raffles. The few members who are left from the original formation of the guild will attest to the fact that we started with nothing. Please respect the dedicated work of members over the years by using our precious machines carefully.

Maintenance Report

by Brian Harris

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| 5/11 | Rexon Saw - Resharpened blade fitted. |
| 15/11 | Disc Sander - Velcro pad has become detached from the aluminium disc, this will be cleaned of residual glue and reattached. |
| 19/11 | 1442 Lathe - The lead screw within the quill of the tailstock has seized and requires a replacement that is being obtained. |
| 10/12 | 1442 Lathe - New Quill and lead screw fitted. |

The Christmas Tree - How It All Got Started

Long before the advent of Christianity, plants and trees that remained green all year had a special meaning for people in the winter. Just as people today decorate their homes during the festive season with pine, spruce, and fir trees, ancient peoples hung evergreen boughs over their doors and windows. In many countries it was believed that evergreens would keep away witches, ghosts, evil spirits, and illness. In the Northern hemisphere, the shortest day and longest night of the year falls on December 21 or December 22 and is called the winter solstice. Many ancient people believed that the sun was a god and that winter came every year because the sun god had become sick and weak. They celebrated the solstice because it meant that at last the sun god would begin to get well. Evergreen boughs reminded them of all the green plants that would grow again when the sun god was strong and summer would return.

The ancient Egyptians worshipped a god called Ra, who had the head of a hawk and wore the sun as a blazing disk in his crown. At the solstice, when Ra began to recover from the illness, the Egyptians filled their homes with green palm rushes which symbolized for them the triumph of life over death.

Early Romans marked the solstice with a feast called the Saturnalia in honor of Saturn, the god of agriculture. The Romans knew that the solstice meant that soon farms and orchards would be green and fruitful. To mark the occasion, they decorated their homes and temples with evergreen boughs. In Northern Europe the mysterious Druids, the priests of the ancient Celts, also decorated their temples with evergreen boughs as a symbol of everlasting life. The fierce Vikings in Scandinavia thought that evergreens were the special plant of the sun god, Balder.

Germany is credited with starting the Christmas tree tradition as we now know it in the 16th century when devout Christians brought decorated trees into their homes. Some built Christmas pyramids of wood and decorated them with evergreens and candles if wood was scarce.



Victorian Christmas



In the English-speaking world, the union of gifts, trees, and Christmas was due to the influence of Queen Victoria and her husband Prince Albert, a native of Saxony (now part of Germany). German immigrants had brought the custom of Christmas trees with them in the early 1800s, but it spread widely after Victoria and Albert set up an elaborate tree for their children at Windsor Castle in 1841. At this point, Christmas presents were usually hung on the tree itself.

German and Dutch immigrants also brought their traditions of trees and presents to the New World in the early 1800s. The image of happy middle-class families exchanging gifts around a tree became a powerful one for American authors and civic leaders who wished to replace older, rowdier, and more alcohol-fueled Christmas traditions—such as wassailing—with a more family-friendly holiday. This family-centered image was widely popularized by Clement Moore's 1822 poem, known today as "Twas the Night Before Christmas" (which also helped give us our modern picture of Santa Claus).

This is the last in the series on Timber prepared by Graham Bradford and we thank him sincerely for his contribution over the last couple of years. Ed

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