



# Flitch 'n Chips

Issue No. 222

December 2015

## Presidents Report



G'Day all Woodies,

Another year almost gone! Where did 2015 go? Christmas is upon us again and I have to say I love Christmas; family, friends, eating & giving. However one can be prone to over-indulgence.

Our Santa Shop was a runaway success financially for the Guild and many of the members who put their items up for sale. Our gross takings for the two days was \$10,819.00 and the Guild netted \$2799.88 into the bank. A brief summary is as follows:

Sausage Sizzle	\$ 426.94
Coffee, tea & cakes	\$ 148.60
Sales of Club items	\$ 358.00
Raffle	\$ 834.20
Commission on Sales	\$1032.14
Total	\$2799.88

A special thanks to Bruce Chapman and Rick Vickers for their organization of the event and to all those members who stepped up to the plate and helped. Some jobs associated with running an event like this are very demanding and it was pleasing to see other members helping out when needed.

We have been approached by the Cooroora Woodworkers Club to take part in their Inter-Club Competition again on 6th & 7th May next year. Some of our members will remember our past involvement in this competition and this year, we did not submit any entries, mainly due to concerns about entries being judged in incorrect categories and judging generally. They have modified their rules to accommodate Club entries by taking the five best scores of all club entries which means that clubs do not have to score well in all categories. The changes proposed do not seem to address our specific concerns, only future participation will highlight if they have taken our concerns seriously. The management committee would like feed-back from members if there is any interest in submitting entries again in 2016.

During the month, a dangerous incident occurred. Damage was done to the Makita Compound Drop Saw. The damage was not reported to the Shed Captain and it was left for the next member to use in a dangerous state. Accidents with equipment do happen and it is very important that the Shed Captain is made aware if equipment is damaged or unsafe so action can be taken. We do ask all members to help by reporting such incidents.

The club is considering the purchase of a Domino machine for the Guild. Robert Otto introduced me to this machine during the chair making course and I love it. To me, it is the ultimate jointing system and Rob will be demonstrating its use on Wednesday morning and I will demo on Saturday morning for those that cannot make Wednesday. As a Woodworking Club, we should have available for all members equipment to do all types of joints in wood, hence the reasoning behind the purchase of a Domino machine.

Our Christmas dinner was a wonderful success with terrific organization by Brian Harris and our MC for the night, John Henderson. Just looking around the room during the night, it was evident that everyone was enjoying themselves.

For all those members not feeling 100%, we send our best wishes for speedy recovery and to all those members who I am unable to catch up with before Christmas, please have a safe, happy and relaxing Christmas break.

Cheers,  
John Muller  
President.

ps... See page 7 for info on our New Year Shed Cleanup!!!!



This month I thought I would include some of the little tricks I use to save time when wrestling with some grand construction.

1. An essential part of your armory of tools should be at least two pairs of dividers, one large and one small. You know the ones I mean; like compasses but with two steel points, and the points should be sharp! I use them often to transfer measurements when positioning hinges or setting up for a cut on the table saw. I find them more accurate and not subject to the mistakes you can make when using a retracting carpenters' metal tape, or any ruler subject to errors of parallax. By the way; ever wondered why the little metal hook on the end of a carpenters' tape is loose? The reason is the thickness of the hook. When you measure by pushing the end of the tape against something the hook is pushed in. When you measure by pulling the end of the tape from an edge the hook is pulled out. The tiny difference is to compensate for the thickness of the hook!

Dividers can be used to find the centre of a piece of stock, and they are invaluable when marking regular spacing for screws. In the shed you will find dividers on the wall near the lathes – they are like many of us, old and battered and a bit second hand – but they still work and they are useful.

2. The sliding square, the square with an adjustable blade. If you don't know what I mean ask any of the experienced people. I prefer to use a fixed blade square for important marking at right angles and the accuracy of any square can be tested by using it to draw a line from a straight edge and then turning the square over to see if two lines match. However, the sliding square can be used to mark identical measurements or by holding a pencil against the end of the blade and pulling the square along to mark parallel lines. You can measure depth of cut and many other things only limited by your imagination, or perhaps, your innovation!

I will continue with simple practical ideas next year: But in the meantime – MERRY CHRISTMAS! - to all of our members and especially to their patient partners!

### Safety Notes

By Warne Wilson and Dave Banister



I find that I must report a worrying incident which happened recently with the Makita compound saw we won as first prize in the Cooroy woodworking competition. Someone, who to this date remains unknown, badly damaged the saw and walked away without admitting it. Apart from the moral issue I would like to determine what that member was doing to warn you all not to attempt anything similar. Parts of the machine shattered and the main shaft is bent. The incident must have caused a loud noise but no one seems to have noticed it.

I must ask every member to please read and become familiar with the following tutorial.

Operation of the Compound Sliding Saws:

Operation of these machines is potentially a hazardous operation requiring additional care and attention to complement the operating instructions. If unsure, consult the Shed Captain or an experienced member, particularly if you wish to make mitre or bevel cuts.

All timber will possess inbuilt stress which is released when the timber is machined, resulting in unpredictable movement. This is particularly relevant to timber which is rough sawn, not fully dried, or warped.

The inherent problem with use of the compound sliding saw is closure of the sawn gap on to the saw blade as the cut progresses. This results in a violent and sudden reaction which can cause injury and damage to the machine.

The critical rule for safe operation is that as the cut progresses, there must be no impediment to the movement of the 'offcut'. The 'offcut' must not be forced against the fence, nor must there be upward force applied to it by the base plate. As the cut progresses the 'offcut' must be free to fall away without binding on the saw blade.

The workpiece must be firmly held in place by the clamp mechanism. It is extremely unsafe practice to hold a workpiece in the compound saw by hand. If the saw does jam, an unsecured workpiece will only exacerbate the problem. Problems will be minimised by adopting the following practices.

1. If a straight timber edge cannot be presented to the saw fence, place a spacer piece between the timber and the fence to give the 'offcut' clearance against the fence. This will minimise the sawn gap closing on the saw as the cut progresses.
2. If the workpiece is curved, clamp it so that the 'offcut' curves upwards from the base plate. This allows the 'offcut' to fall away and not jam the blade as the cut progresses.
3. With a larger workpiece, use an additional G clamp to secure it to the bench.
4. Feed the saw into the workpiece at a slow rate.

**Control the machine – don't let it control you.**

And lastly; we are all human and we all make mistakes. If you damage a machine please tell the Shed Captain for the day, he will not eat you; he will be pleased that you told him and he will be interested to know what happened.

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## Around The Shed



Looks like Keith won a heart at the Santa Shop!

This is what our roof looks like since Uni-Industries installed our solar power system



Another BRWG Community Project completed. While Council Committees decide on design/font/colour/size etc (could take till April) for the Maleny Walkway in the new precinct, Woodies have made some temporary signs - colour is spare paint found in the Shed and font is whatever Brian McTaggart had that he could scrollsaw! Delivery - 1 week



## Maintenance Report

by Graham Bradford

The reporting period began on an unfortunate note with the Makita compound saw requiring repair due to misuse. The Bosch machine is now in use in its place.

500 mm Thicknesser..... A number of chipped cutter inserts were turned or replaced. The table rollers were adjusted to correct height and the feed roller pressures checked. New set of drive belts fitted.

380 mm Thicknesser..... Feed roller pressures and cutter condition were checked.

Weekly checks were made on the cutter heads of the Jointer and WoodWhiz.

Broken bandsaw blades were repaired as required. New nylon blade guides fitted to No.1 and No.2 bandsaws. Shed Captains please record any bandsaw blade replacement details in the green book.

New blade quick release mechanisms were fitted to the Hegner No.1 Scrollsaw (Check with your Shed Captain).

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### Meet Spike Bettega— Member 290

*The members of "Woodies" are a fantastic bunch of individuals and each has an astonishing life story to tell. To get them to share aspects of the real story behind the face is very enjoyable, sometimes inspiring. It is a privilege to be able to share a small part of their life in this feature, through Q&A, and to get an insight into their thoughts and opinions, and for that we are very thankful. This month we meet Spike Bettega a member of the Blackall Range Woodcrafters Guild since 2004.*

*(Spike prefers to be known for his work helping others and his skill in producing musical instruments like guitars, ukuleles, and the next step; violas and cellos)*



*Tell us a bit more about yourself Spike.*

I come from Perth, a family of six, born with a twin sister 12 weeks premature, in 1957. We were lucky. There is an older brother and younger sister. The Old Man migrated to W.A. from Italy. He was an ex-POW, who married post war in England to a pretty West Country Girl. We were given a reasonable education at a Catholic School but they did not teach manual arts, which I was more suited to. My first job was as an aerial survey camera operator for a private firm flying light aircraft out of Jandacot WA. We flew the mining camps to assess stock levels, then came East for Lands and Survey Department Canberra, I was 18 and learning about this big country. Then followed a stint at TAFE doing Electronic Engineering, followed by a life in the RAAF, a family of my own and lots of travel in Australia and Overseas.

*What steered you towards the RAAF, Spike?*

My mother was very instrumental in my joining the RAAF. Cunningly she placed a newspaper advertisement to sign up in my bedroom. What?! No way I'm joining the armed forces! I would have to get my hair cut! And I was definitely not a military person. Twenty years later, I can say I learnt lots from being a serving member, tolerance, respect, loyalty and dependability, and all the other stuff a military life can teach a person. I did secretly maintain my rebel anti-establishment inner me. I retired from the RAAF after 20 years at the age of 40. Then I had to work for a living.

*What was your first woodwork project?*

At about the age of 12 during the height of the Skate Board craze I decided to make my own. I walked to the local second hand shop and bought a pair of used roller skates. I then constructed two skate boards. One for my brother. We lost a lot of skin in those days.

*In your early days at the Woodies you taught many members the skills in basic wood turning. This was of great satisfaction to you. What else do you get from being a member of Woodies today?*

Teaching anything is a great experience. But the collection of characters at the Woodies and their general attitude to all things is infectious. Also there are no airs and graces amongst us, which is humbling to be around. As long as people maintain an open mind and a willingness to learn we can live a rewarding life. Woodies is a great democracy.

*What gives you inspiration?*

I like the history of design. I enjoy sculptural works like the statues of Italian Masters. I find popular mechanics fascinating, and love to see how things work. There were a lot of dismantled objects in my bedroom, my sister still doesn't know what happened to her transistor radio. Or her hairdryer.

*What type of woodwork do you enjoy most?*

Well, I have attempted to produce multiple items of bowls for example, which taught me that I hate repetition. So mostly I like the challenge of doing something difficult and unusual. I like cabinet construction and small tables but they must have a design element of my own and be unusual. The problem with that philosophy is that it limits production.

*What music do you listen to?*

Being a teen of the seventies I love most of what came out of that period. Neil Young, Eagles (Hotel California), the folk singers of the time like Ralf McTell (Streets of London), Bob Dylan and Donovan. The creators of modern youth music, The Beatles, Jimi Hendrix, The Who, Pink Floyd, Supertramp. Mostly music the majority of Woodies and my parents only tolerate because their kids played it. (C'mon Spike – we're not that old!!)

*What to you is perfect happiness?*

Riding a Harley, carefree, wind in your face. Family time with the whole clan, Italian style. Lots of good food and fun, plus the occasional bickering. Just like in the movies.



*How do you relax?*

I play a guitar. When I play now I don't remember songs enough to just play one, so I make stuff up as I go. Sometimes a bunch of notes coincide with a known song and I think, wow! Other times I just end up semi-comatose from the sound. I was given my first guitar at 13. I thought it would be a good way to get the chicks. It worked quite well at TAFE! Much like being the first one to own a car - popularity through possessions.

*What makes you laugh, Spike?*

The Goon Show (Spike Milligan, Harry Secombe, Peter Sellers). The scripts were ridiculous, the delivery unique and well worth a good laugh. I laugh at myself, often but we can fix that up later with a little sticky tape. Little kids are always good fun.

*What is a word or sentence that best describes you?*

Useful. Well, adventurous as well. A useful adventurer.

*What other hobbies and interests do you have?*

I like sketching and small time (untrained) art. Commuting on trains provided endless subjects for sketching, as did dreary meetings of mind-numbing tedium at the UN HQ in Manhattan or the US State Department, I tend to avoid meetings these days.

*Who or what inspires you?*

Great musicians and craftsmen. Lately, all things medical - the staff, doctors and surgeons who seem to have limitless compassion for people like me, who do dumb stuff.

*What advice would you give to a handful of kids about you?*

Well I learnt a lot during my tours of Iraq. When I came home I found too many people concerned with too much trivia. I advise young people to travel as much as you can, learn from those you meet and don't get caught up in the nonsense that can surround you. Oh, and stay away from drugs. (And get a hair cut).

*You are known as the man with a ready smile and positive approach to life. What is your philosophy on life or the greatest lesson life has taught you?*

I guess I am a humanist. I rile against the self-superiority of man and religion, ever notice all the funny hats? So I would sum that up as "Treat others as you would have them treat you".

*What would be your personal greatest extravagance?*

When I bought my Harley in 1992 after a long time of a riding other stuff, it was awesome. A great extravagance that returned enjoyment for years.

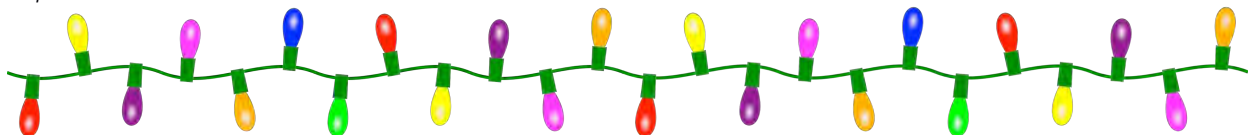
*What is your greatest regret?*

Well, regrets are a waste of time. Usually I don't even bother with what happened yesterday because I am always thinking of tomorrow.

*In your opinion, does Australia need to be made a better place?*

Nope. I am fortunate to have travelled a lot of the country and city Oz, as well as overseas, and while we can be distracted by politicians, media, and popular agenda's, the real Australia can be found by travelling and meeting people. This country is by far the best country and while there are many issues here, they dwarf into insignificance when we "look over the fence".

*Thank you Spike.*



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## Working Bee

We are having a working Bee at the Shed from 8.00Am until 12.00 noon on 23 January 2016.

The mission is to commence a major clean-up of the area outside the Shed. The aim is to get rid of useless timber and old pallets etc and sort what is useable and what is not.

We will have 3 basic teams,

1. To clean up log pile and surrounding area.
2. Clean up the timber stacked at the rear of the shed and storage area
3. Sort and restack the timber racking near the mill
4. Other tasks we have time for.

There will be a chipper on site for all timber that is rejected . If you have a chain saw please bring it along. If you have a ute or trailer these will be handy to do a tip run and maybe take home chips or fire wood.

The Shed will not be available for projects on this day.

A sausage sizzle and lite refreshments will be available on completion.

John Henderson - VP



And a fun night was had by all at the Woody's Christmas Party at Flaxton Gardens last Friday.





Shed Times 8.00 - 11.30	
Monday	General Activities
Tuesday	Turning & Carving
Wednesday	General Workshop & Toys
Thursday	Furniture & Joinery
Friday	General Activities
Saturday	General Act. & Demo's

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<b>Who's Who in BRWG Inc. 2015 - 16</b>		
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President	John Muller	0418 871 946
Vice President	John Henderson	0481 339 814
Secretary	Graham Beaumont	0449 081 092
Asst. Secretary	Dave Edmond	5478 6932
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Recruitment Officers	Dave Banister, Lionel Tilley, Tom Black, Jeff Harrison, Frank McDonald	
Activity Officers	Ray Curry, John Drew, John Clarke, Warne Wilson Dave Banister, Keith Muirhead, Brian Harris, Max Barrenger	
Safety Officers	Dave Banister, Warne Wilson	
First Aid Officer	John Drewe	
Events Organiser	Rick Vickers	0408 663 842
Shed Managers	Frank McDonald, Bruce Chapman(0422 927 032)	
Amenity Officer	Pat McDonald	
House Officer	Pat McDonald	
Purchasing Officer	Rob Otto	
Training Officer	Rob Otto	
Librarian	Brian Holdsworth, Max Barrenger	
Timber Management	John Holland, Frank McDonald, Ron Donald, Phil Gibson	

Shed Captain Roster - January 2016											
Monday		Tuesday		Wednesday		Thursday		Friday		Saturday	
								1	NYD	2	John Henderson
4	Dave Banister	5	Bruce Chapman	6	Max Barrenger	7	Spike Bettega	8	George Blowers	9	Keith Muirhead
11	Brian Harris	12	Phil Gibson	13	Leigh Boynton	14	Ray Bryant	15	Dave Edmond	16	Graham Bradford
18	John Muller	19	Frank McDonald	20	Rob Otto	21	John Drewe	22	John Muller	23	Warne Wilson
25	Lionel Tilley	26	Phil Gibson	27	Phil English	28	John Holland	29	George Blowers	30	John Henderson

Shed Captain Roster - February 2016											
Monday		Tuesday		Wednesday		Thursday		Friday		Saturday	
1	Dave Banister	2	Tom Black	3	Max Barrenger	4	Spike Bettiga	5	Frank McDonald	6	Keith Muirhead
8	Brian Harris	9	Bruce Chapman	10	Leigh Boynton	11	Ray Bryant	12	Dave Edmond	13	Graham Bradford
15	John Muller	16	Frank McDonald	17	Rob Otto	18	John Drewe	19	John Muller	20	Warne Wilson
22	Lionel Tilley	23	Phil Gibson	24	Phil English	25	John Holland	26	George Blowers	27	John Henderson
29	Dave Banister										