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February 2014

For the calendar

3 February Meeting Night
Project Mallet

11 February Committee Meeting

17 February Work Night

3 March Meeting Night
Project Lidded Box

11 March Committee Meeting

17 March Work Night

PRESIDENTS REPORT

As they say during the football season “What a big week it has been in football”. A similar comment could be made in regard to the Barwon Valley Woodwrights when we look back over the past three months, “What a big three months it has been for the Barwon Valley Woodwrights”. My report includes information in relation to the events that have taken place over the past three months.

The first activity was a visit to the Barwon Valley Special School, not just to see and hear Thomas playing in the Belmont High School band. It was also to present to the students at the school a number of items that members had made to assist students with their development. The items included a big ball box, a number of humpty dumpties, wooden horses and a set of stop lights. All items were accepted with gratitude by the teachers and students and the club was presented with a certificate of appreciation.

The next situation occurred on our work night on 19 November when one of our members found that they were dehydrated and collapsed. I can only put it down to all the work the member had done to in making pens, selling raffle tickets and handling the sale of the raffle tickets for our exhibition. To all those members who assisted on the night can I say thank you for all the assistance that was given to the member concerned. The way in which members stepped-up and assisted was most appreciated from the time the member collapsed through to driving his car home and checking on his wellbeing after being discharged from hospital.

The next event was our major activity for the year, our Annual Exhibition and Sale that took place on 23 and 24 November. With the Geelong Library moving into our previous venue at the State Government Offices we found a new location. The Masonic Centre in Regent Street Belmont proved to be a most satisfactory location. There were some minor problems with the venue that were identified by members, the exhibition sub committee, the committee and members of the public. All the concerns have been noted and it is hoped that we will not have them reoccur when the 2014 event comes around. It has been decided that with the situation regarding the availability of the State Government Offices still uncertain we will hold the 2014 event in The Masonic Centre. I would like to say thank you to all those members, wives, partners and family members who assisted at the exhibition as you are the people who made the event such a success.

Reports of the Saturday night get together were that the night, like the exhibition, was a success. To the members who organised the night I would like to say thank you.

To enable the good and not so good of the exhibition to be considered while every thing was still fresh in people's minds the exhibition subcommittee meet on 26 November to review the event. It is hoped that a large number of the suggestions made to improve the event will be able to be incorporated into the 2014 event.

In excess of 50 people attended our Christmas get together at Club Grove (the Ocean Grove Bowling Club) on 2 December. The feedback that I received from people who attended that it was a great night and people enjoyed themselves. A special thank you to those members who made toys that were donated to Bethany Community Support to go towards their Christmas toy appeal it was most appreciated.

Four of our members entered items for sale in the Bellarine Woodworkers Exhibition and Sale that took place on 4 and 5 January. The event this year was held in a new venue in Drysdale and like us that had a few small areas that they may change in 2014.

The last event for the club in the three month period was the BBQ at Bunnings Waurin Ponds on 25 January. A report on the BBQ appears separately in this newsletter. I would like to say a special thank you to those members who assisted with the preparation before and the running of the BBQ on the day. I would like to make special mention of the ladies who assisted on the day. Without the support of the ladies we would not have been able to conduct the BBQ or if we had gone ahead it would have involved those members who worked on the day in some very long sessions.

I hope that some of our members were able to attend the exhibition of work by Paul Barton at the Salt Contemporary Art Gallery in Queenscliff during late December and early January. Paul's work was on the theme of Sea Urchins and if you missed the exhibition some of the items that Paul had on display can be seen on the Salt web site.

Bruce was bitten by a bat. I am sure that an article will appear in the newsletter as to Bruce's encounter with a bat explaining as to how it happened and what the consequences were. If the article is not in the newsletter then can I ask that you approach Bruce and get the full story from him. Please don't let Bruce just brush it aside and say that it was only a scratch on the hand through a very thick welding glove by a fruit bat and there was nothing to it. I would like to know what Bruce was doing with a thick welding glove and a fruit bat, I for one are at a loss to try and understand as to how Bruce got into that situation.

I close my report on a very sad note and that is the passing of Dorothy (Dot) Chandler on 12 December 2013. A funeral celebrating Dots life was held on 18 December at the Barwon Heads Uniting Church. Dot was involved on a personal basis with the club as one of the ladies who helped on the sales desk at our annual exhibition up until a couple of years ago when her health did not allow her to continue. Along with Dot Harper and Rhonda Willmott, Dot was always on the sales desk and the three ladies were very much a part of the team who assisted in making the exhibition a success.

If you ever attended one of our Christmas get togethers and we had show and tell Dot would bring along her beautiful porcelain dolls to show. Dot made every thing from the doll to the cloths that they were dressed in they were of an extremely high quality. It was only in later years that Dots health did not allow her to continue making her dolls and it was an area of some concern to her. Dot also assisted Ken with his intarsia work and the assembly of many of his three dimensional works that he made. Dot was a very keen Fitzroy supporter and her love of the club continued when they moved to Brisbane and examples were spread throughout the Chandler home.

The very first newsletters that the club produced were compiled by Ken and Dot and Dot did all the typing of the newsletters when Ken was the editor. Dot was a great assistance to Ken in all the committee roles that he undertook as part of his involvement with the club. Dot will be greatly missed by Ken and Christine and all her many friends that she made over the years.

Bunnings Wauru Ponds had a Christmas Family Night on 5 December and we had 12 members who assisted on the night. The involvement of the club was in making the wooden components for the toys that the children assembled on the night. There was somewhere in the vicinity of 200 toy kits that ranged from Santa sleighs, doll prams, tool boxes and pencil cases that were assembled by children on the night. To those members who assisted on the night and who made the kits we all say a special thank you.



Possible Projects For 2014

Recently I sent an email to members seeking suggestions for club projects for 2014. I received a number of responses from members and they are listed below.

The first project for 2014 is a mallet for our February meeting. The project for our March meeting will be a lidded box.

What I am wanting from members is their preferences for projects for the balance of the year from those which have been suggested by members. The possible projects are as follows:-

Bowl
Candle sticks
Childs chair
Christmas theme item
Clock or barometer or both
End grain vessel, bowl or box
Home made tool or jig
Item off the chisel “no sanding”
Kitchen utensil holder
Knife block
Letter opener
Spurtle
Tea tray
Toy / toy with wheels
Treen
Trivet



What I need now from members is the above items rated 1 to 16 in order of preference so that I can produce a monthly project list for the balance of 2014. The reason for asking members for their preference is in the hope that we will have a large number of entries in the monthly project. The committee are of the opinion that the monthly project will only be successful if the item is something that members are interested in making and keeping or giving to friends or relations or even selling.

Could you please let me know your preferences before the end of February either by email, phone or in writing so that I can produce a project list as soon as possible.

The President Geoff

Bunnings Barbecue 25th January.

Well, we did it!

Members pitched in to help, enjoyed the day and raised \$1600 for the Club. The amount raised was a slight disappointment, as the number of people shopping at Bunnings was well down on normal Saturday trading, so we didn't get the customers. Some Barwon Valley families will be eating sausages for a while too, as we had to sell off a few kilograms of them at the end of the day.

The Story

As a result of our closer association with Bunnings and their obvious satisfaction with our work nights for children, we were offered Saturday 25th January as a potential prime date for a barbecue fundraiser.

A quick survey of membership interest established that we could manage the day, as plenty of members were prepared to volunteer, so we decided to have a crack.

Organisation of the day required attendance at a Bunnings briefing, (Bruce and I went), ordering of sausages, bread, onions and drinks, provision of various utensils and equipment for cooking and cleaning, hire of a refrigerated van and financing. That took a bit of time and running around. Thanks to Laury, Jock and Ralph for their help with that. Laury's wife Nola and daughter Rachel were fountains of knowledge as they had done many barbecues before with SES.

At the briefing session Bunnings provided before the event "old hands" from other organisations gave us some good tips, including making sure members walked through Bunnings with cooked sausages and onions to make sure the smell permeated the building. We did that and it probably worked. The food probably smelt better than it tasted so people came to buy.

Pre-purchase of drinks on special at Woolworths and Coles helped the profits. Initially I went to Aldi and thought I had scored a top bargain with soft drinks at really cheap prices. Alas, when I arrived home all glowing with my efforts my wife gently explained to me that I had bought 330 ml cans and needed to buy 375 ml cans. Back to Aldi for a refund and a bit of under breath muttering! No harm done as the manager cheerfully refunded the money, even feeling sorry for the silly old man with the trolley full of drinks.

The total outlay for the day was approximately \$900 with the prospect of making over \$2000 profit from the day, which of course didn't happen. Still, \$1600 is better than nothing.

Thank you to all the people who willingly gave up their time on Australia Day weekend to help the Club. At least we had a chance to catch up with each other without saws and drills in our hands, although turning wood is probably much more enjoyable for most than turning sausages on a barbecue.

Neil



Luke Polley serves a satisfied customer. Luke must have owed his father big time to come and help while sporting a broken leg.

Let's get on a roll

After the recent Show many of the plasticised white runners that we use on the display shelves were put back in the bag loosely rolled together, sometimes singly, sometimes with several rolled together. The material is very flexible but heavy too, and wrinkling/creasing is guaranteed when they are unpacked after a year; see the wrinkles after one day! The best time to roll them up is while at least one of the shelf sets is in place, a heap of runners can be laid on top of each other and rolled onto the tubes, one at a time. The tubes are over-length so that the edges do not have to be exactly lined up and the edges are still reasonably protected. The greatest bonus of this is that it can be done at table or even a little greater height - these took a while to do off the kitchen floor. It was a good show wasn't it!



Gregor Wallace.

