

December 2023

Newsletter



Special Dates

January 2024

- 1st New Years Day
- 26th Australia Day

February 2024

- 2nd Committee Meeting
- 9th T.o.M.??
- 16th Monthly Meeting



True meaning of Christmas is special to us.

Some of the Guild's Christmas Characters

Christmas is a joyous time. Let's reflect on some of the photos taken over the year. Is there a Christmas caption that could relate to some photos? Let us see!



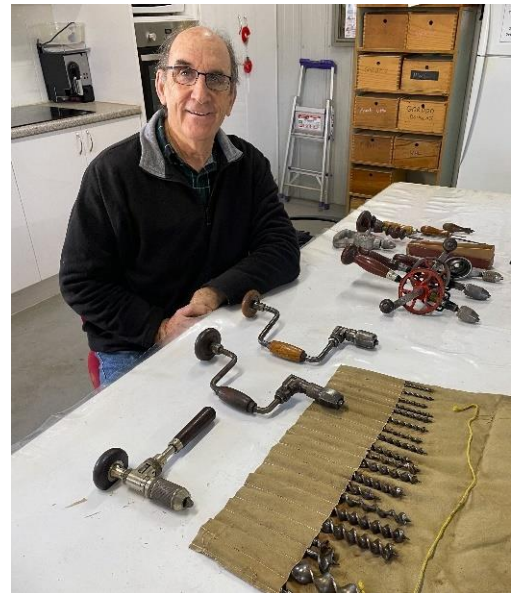
Four naughty elves with a posy for Mrs Santa (crawlers!!!)



Santa's understudy, a beaut beard in the making.



Rod and Bob smiling, "Look Santa, we spent all last night making these gifts. Hope you are happy!"



Santa's Tom the Toolman. Really knows his tools to share with Santa's helpers.



Santa's helper Greg, "Sorry Santa, bloody saw won't start!!"



Two of the Three Wise Men of Christmas. Wonder where the third one is?



The Three O' Wise ones of Contemplation.



"Feeding Time", I mean lunchtime for Santa's helpers. They love their food.



George with cards trying to convince Sharada to play a game of Christmas 500.



Caretaker Rod. Looking after "Mini Reindeer in training."



Santa's little helper, Bill the Painter. What an impressive style he has.



Santa's Financial advisor. "Wait till I find my abacus and I'll give you the answer."



"Oh Santa, I would love a crane for Christmas," drooled Ian.



"Don't worry Santa, your money is safe with me." Ka-ching!!



Here they are," Santa's Merry Helpers".

Well done. A great bunch, as we know.

Working Bee – PMACC

Well, Friday 15 December rolled around and the working bee began. Main purpose was to erect and install the large dust extractor.

Our on-the-spot photographer and reporter, Steve Sessions was on hand and presented the following.

It was quite a warm day but we soldiered on. The extractor wasn't light but with a few grunts it was off the forklift.



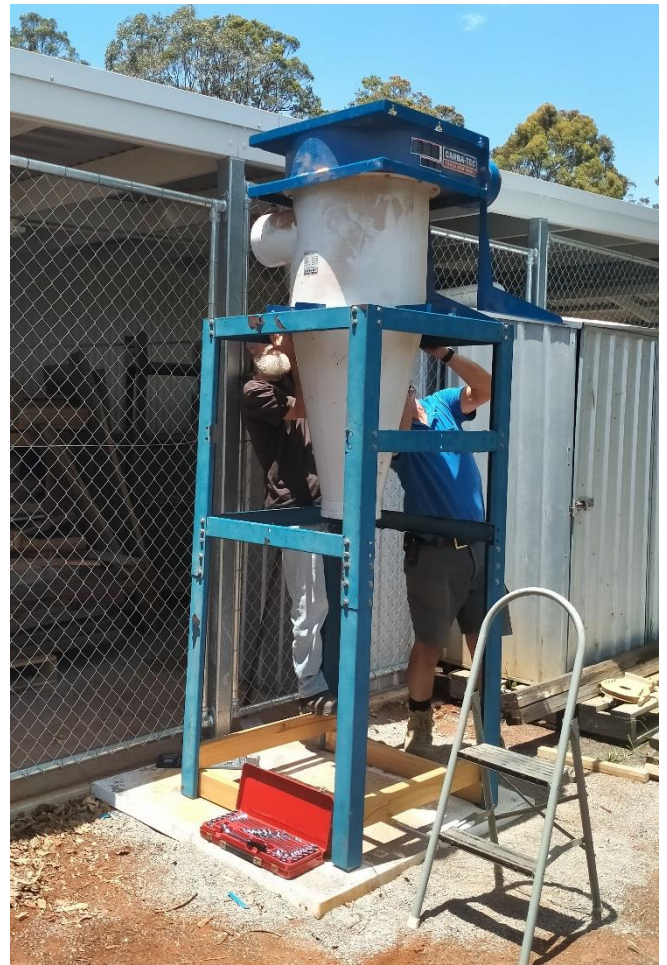
Many hands make light work

It had to be stood up which wasn't easy. Again with a few grunts it was up. Watch the muscles stretch as the extractor rises.



Obviously, George was the supervisor. (someone has to do it)

The extractor was jiggled into position ready to be connected up. Job done; job well done.



The "techos" have moved in!

Whilst all this was occurring the members could sense the general aroma of BBQ food. But this wasn't any old BBQ food, it was food prepared by BBQ Chef Bill. What a talent this man has; to be able to entice our members to swoon for his cooking.



Chef in action.

2023 Christmas Lunch

It was that time again. The 37 attendees arrived at the Wauchope RSL Club knowing a great lunch was waiting for them.

People dressed in different ways; some extrovertly showed their Christmas Spirit.



Robert wanted to check if **Ned** was OK. Ned looked different the last time he saw him. I wonder who Ned's hairdresser is?



Dave wasn't sure if he was The Mad Hatter from Alice in Wonderland, or Santa's helper with a big hat.

Jon (alias Mr Ka-ching) supplied each lady with a set of Christmas earrings, crafted on his CNC machine. FREE! Thanks, Jon for your Christmas Spirit in providing these.



Anyway, the hunger pains set-in so the lunch began. What a meal- 3 types of meats, roast and boiled veges, gravy and sauces. Of, course the obligatory bun roll appeared early as an appetiser. We all dutifully lined-up to receive our meal. What a plate full.

Formalities began. **President Greg**, presented his speech. He recognised the hard work members have undertaken the last 12 months with the upheaval in being asked to leave the Men's Shed and being warmly welcomed to the Port Macquarie Arts and Craft Centre. Greg said the guild was ending the year on a high with great opportunities to look forward to in 2024.

In turn, Greg was acknowledged and thanked for his perseverance and leadership through this year's difficult times. Members' partners were also acknowledged for *"pushing us out the door, encouraging us to enjoy our craft and encouraging our resulting friendships."*

Will followed with one of his ballads. Nothing like a bush ballad to finish lunch (oops haven't had dessert yet!). It is obvious Will gave a lot of thought to his ballad and everyone looked forward to hearing it. Like Pam Ayres (English poet), he is the only one who can express his own ballads for the audience enjoyment.



Before dessert a special recognition award had to be presented. President Greg recognised **Bill Johnson** for his culinary expertise

The diploma is for
Successful Completion in Barbecuing.

Signed by

Sir Ash Black

CEO, Burnt Offering Association, and

Ima Cook

President, Meat Roasters Association

Bill's reaction in the photo was priceless.

Proof of Bill's BBQ Achievement

a. Gourmet BBQ at Men's Shed. delicious



b. Sausage Satay, slowly cooked for infused flavour (Chef language!!) - magnificent



(chef photos by Bob Robinson)

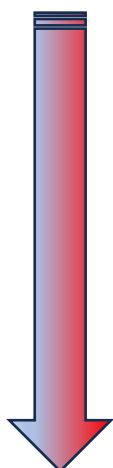
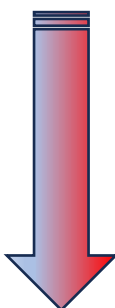
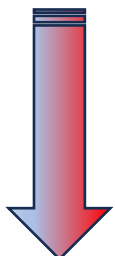
- c.** Like all famous BBQ Chefs, it is important they are lubricated with refreshment. - **essential**



Viv rose in his usual splendour and everyone thought another great ballad coming. But it wasn't; some light-handed humour was espoused to help settled down for dessert.

Dessert arrived, plum pudding and pavlova, delicious.

*Have a look at the party faithful.
What a handsome group of people,
all happy, just finished first course
with contentment in their eyes. We
have survived as a guild because of
these people; we are very fortunate.*







The Four Stages of Life

Which Stage Relates to

YOU?

Your relationship with Santa Claus, exists in four stages:

1. You believe in Santa, the fat jolly man who comes down the chimney to deliver your presents.
2. You grow up and stop believing in Santa.
3. You have children and now you are Santa.
4. You age and finally you look like Santa!

Wishing everyone a joyous Christmas and hope you enjoy the company of those who are special to you.



2024

We'll be back

Guild members will rest for a while but when the clock rolls over to 2024, they will start to have itchy feet and will want to get together once more. The Art & Craft Centre looks inviting.



