



Wood-Turners Fourth Annual Arts And Craft Show

Private Members' Statements

Proof
11/30/2001

WOOD-TURNERS FOURTH ANNUAL ARTS AND CRAFT SHOW

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Mr COLLIER (Miranda) [2.15 p.m.]: As the International Year of Volunteers draws to a close it is important to reflect on the unselfish and valuable contribution that these tireless individuals and groups make to the community. One such group in my community are the members of the southern region of the Sydney Woodturners Guild. Honourable members will recall my previous statement about wood-turners in the House on 6 April 2000. The wood-turners meet at Oyster Bay in a hall which they restored at their own expense and which is affectionately known as the Cubby House.

They have more than 200 members and they hold regular monthly meetings at which they exchange ideas and hone their skills in the ancient craft. Their motto—By hand and eye—reflects the wonderful wooden articles that they produce with their lathes, their skills and their experience. But there is another motto to which members of the Cubby House adhere most firmly: that is, charity begins at home; an old motto but one to which these wood-turners—these outstanding and selfless volunteers—have given a most tangible expression for four consecutive years.

I first met the wood-turners in December 1988 at the opening of the accident and emergency ward at Sutherland hospital. They had raised \$6,000 for the children's ward. In 1999 they raised \$9,000 for the Rural Fire Service, and in the year 2000 they raised \$15,000 for the State Emergency Service. This year, over the weekend of 27 and 28 October, the wood-turners held their fourth consecutive arts and craft show at the Cubby House, with all funds raised being donated to the Assistance Dogs for Independence. The show included the sale of members' work, turning demonstrations and an auction of donated craft items, as well as raffles. The raffle items included a beautiful hand-crafted rocking horse, a games table and a coffee table. I was delighted to attend that show, which began on the evening of Friday 26 October. Anyone who knows the area would be aware of the huge effort put in by the wood-turners in setting up the show. I quote from the wood-turners newsletter, which states:

Friday morning in the reserve around the Cubby House was a vast grass paddock. By 8pm that evening the official opening of the IVth Arts and crafts show was underway in one of the four marquees and tents that had sprung up during the day like wild mushrooms. Inside the Cubby House the main hall was overflowing with a variety of arts and crafts.

The convenor, Mr Jim Govan, welcomed visitors and guests. The task of officially opening the arts and craft show was undertaken by Mr Andrew Biggs, chief executive officer of the Assistance Dogs for Independence. He was accompanied by Oscar, one of the assistance dogs who stole the

show. Oscar was the star of the show and is now an honorary member of the Cubby House. The aim of the Assistance Dogs for Independence, which is a worthy cause, is to assist severely disabled persons to cope better with day-to-day life by helping them in practical ways, such as opening doors and retrieving dropped items, enhancing the quality of life through pet facilitation, therapy and interaction, performing interactive tasks and giving—as many dogs do—unconditional love.

On that day the work of the dogs was demonstrated by Tanya and her dog, Bonnie. Louise Sauvage, the Paralympic gold medallist, signed autographs, participated in a question and answer session and talked about her life and sport. The wood-turners just keep getting better and better. This year the wood-turners raised \$20,500 for the Assistance Dogs for Independence. I sincerely congratulate the wood-turners, in particular Mr Clive Cairns and his committee, on making the fourth wood-turners arts and craft show such an outstanding success. Guild members often ask Clive how he and his team keep producing better and better results year in and year out. Clive's answer is simple. I quote from the "Cubby House News" which reflects accurately his comments:

You don't have to ask. Everyone at the Cubby House seems to instinctively know what needs to be done and just pitches in. I have never experienced the willingness to be involved in any other club I have belonged to as I do here at the Cubby House. It drives you to give of your best.

In May 2000 the wood-turners received the Premier's award for community service. I was pleased to nominate them. But they have not rested on their laurels; they have gone on to give more and more. They give of themselves, their time and their efforts. These people, the members of the wood-turners guild, are volunteers in every sense of the word. Needless to say, we in the shire are proud of them.