

Extract from WAWA Newsletter issue 96 dated October/November 2001

PROFILE OF A TURNER

Lachlan (Lach) Christie was born in Burwood, Victoria, in 1929. Lach was educated at Hartwell State School and Camberwell High School.

The son of a printer, Lach served an apprenticeship as a hand compositor.

In 1950 the family moved to Perth where Lach worked in his trade but in 1951 he set sail for England on a working holiday. He sold his motor bike and after paying 78 pounds for his fare, he arrived in England with 43 pounds in his pocket.

After working for 12 months Lach hitch-hiked around Europe for 5 months before returning to London for another year's work. He then migrated to Canada and worked in Toronto for 7 months. With two friends he bought a new Ford Custom and spent ten weeks travelling around America, finally arriving in Vancouver in time for the 1954 Empire Games. After 9 weeks working in Vancouver, Lach left his friends and hitch-hiked back across Canada and North America to Montreal, sailed back to London and then home to Perth.

In 1955 Lach and his brother established "Christie Bros, Fine Printers" which grew from the two of them to a staff of 16. During this time Lach had met and married Rhonda and they now have four children and five grandchildren. In 1974, Lach and his brother sold out to the Catholic Record which became Vanguard Press. Lach stayed for 3 years as Operations Manager before retiring for the first time.

He then worked selling commercial and industrial real estate for 10 years before his passion for golf made him retire a second time. Then a disastrous venture into a bathroom shop kept him partly occupied for the next 3 years when somewhat poorer and wiser he finally retired for good.

Lach joined the YMCA in 1954 and Freemasonry in 1957 where he is still active. About the same time, he joined Rostrum where he was active for 30 years, being selected twice for the W.A. State Debating Team. He was also a member of the Perth Junior Chamber of Commerce for a number of years. Lach joined Rotary in 1969 and is currently treasurer of the West Perth Rotary Club, formerly a member of Subiaco and Floreat Tennis Clubs, Lach joined the Lake Karrinyup Golf Club in 1981 and plays regularly two or three times a week leaving not a lot of time for woodturning.

Through his old YMCA friends, David Eyres and the late Ern Margetts, Lach first joined the Melville Group of WAWA but when he and Rhonda moved from Wembley to Sorrento he transferred to North of River where he has served a number of years as Secretary/Treasurer. With the relocation of the North of River Group, Lach transferred to the Joondalup/Wanneroo Group.

Lach has been WAWA Christmas Toys Organiser for a couple of years and puts a fair amount of time into toy making. He is the proud owner of an Omega Stubby Lathe. Lach very much enjoys his association with WAWA and the good friends he has made there.

Extract from Newsletter issue 103 dated February/March 2003

TOYS TOYS TOYS

What a great effort this year by members of WAWA to produce so many toys for distribution at Christmas. Unfortunately, it is not practicable to count all the toys but at an estimate 700 to 800 wooden toys were made along with about 500 to 600 soft toys. With the latter go special thanks to Ivy Pritchard who, on her own, made over 300 toys.

Many thanks also to those who helped transport the toys from Kalamunda to my home in Sorrento, which looked more like Santa's workshop on Sunday morning. The toys have been taken to St. Vincent De Paul, Wesley Mission and Southcare from where they will be distributed to the needy families of Perth in time for Christmas.

In addition to the above, Sel Anderson has made over 200 toys which he has distributed to charities in the Joondalup/ Wanneroo area.

So, congratulations to everyone for such a great effort. The good news is we will be able to do it all again next Christmas. *Written by Lach Christie*

Extracts from Newsletter issue 140 dated Feb/March 2009

VALE

Lach Christie, member number 1413, champion of the cause, "**Toys for Kids at Christmas**" died on the 12th of January 2009, a short time after being diagnosed with cancer.

Even knowing his time was short, he was still thinking of those children. He penned the following article for our newsletter.

Scrounging

At our recent Christmas Lunch (which I thought was a great day with excellent food) I spoke for a while about getting materials cheaper. In other words, "scrounging". As a result, I promised to write for our magazine an occasional column on how you can at times save your precious dollars - so here it is - the first article from.

The Scrounger. At the meeting I related how on a visit to K Mart I found these biscuit tins - quite large containing four packets of biscuits. The interesting part was that in the lid were three small quartz alarm clocks - gold and 60 mm diameter. The idea of this was to set up an International Time board - say London, New York- Perth. The cost of my first tin was \$16.50. I took one tin home and found the clocks easily removable and suitable for mounting in wood. I went back and bought nine more tins and amazingly K Mart had reduced the price to \$10.

Now what was I going to do with 40 packets of biscuits? Fortunately, my sister-in-law bought them off me for \$1 a packet for her church group. So out of the \$10 it cost me \$6 for the three clocks - \$2 each which I would normally expect to pay \$7 - \$8. Naturally a few of those present raced out Monday to buy some but by the Monday K Mart put them back up to \$16.50. The word must have got out.

My endeavour each year is to make 40 toys for the charities. I make 10 block trolleys, 10 wheelbarrows, 10 hobby horses and 10 dolls pushers. They are quite basic but safe and strong. During the year I cut, drill, rebate, etc all the timber (pine). I cut the blanks for the 100 wheels I need, and this year Graeme Draper turned the wheels for me. Because of space limitations I pack and tape all the finished panels and label them.

There they stay until November when I start assembling and delivering to Father Brian's Crisis Centre. All of this to tell you that I use a lot of screws. I checked Bunnings recently. Plasterboard screws (ideal for pine which I drill and countersink) 35 mm cost \$2.96 per 100 or \$27.98 per 1,000 for the Tradesman's box - that is a difference between 29 cents each or 2.8 cents each! If you don't want 1,000 why doesn't your club buy them and divide them up. Likewise, from Abrasiflex in Collier Road, Bayswater, for the club I buy 10-15 metres each of 100/180/240/360 grit good quality cloth backed sandpaper. This I cut into metre or half lengths and sell to club members. For our club I add on about 25% to 30% which goes into club funds. And that is still much cheaper than retail.

End Seal

End Seal can be bought in bulk from State-wide Oil in Welshpool. It is a petrol by-product produced by Mobil. They call it Logseal Clear. I buy it in 18 kg (approx. 18 litre) containers for \$106.92 + GST which is approx. \$6.50 per litre. Retail is \$13 per one litre or \$10.80 per 4 litre. I collect some 2 litre milk cartons and decant it off. Adding about 30% for club funds, I sell it to member at \$16 per 2 litres.

Pine For the Toys.

For the heavier timber I use structural pine. Watch out for the roof carpenter starting on a new house and ask him to put the larger pieces (or whatever you want) to one side. I always find they do it gladly otherwise it costs them money to send to the tip. For my panels I have located a firm that makes bunk beds etc. They have spacer boards that are packed between the bales. This pine is about 1m x 140mm x 20mm dressed and free of nail holes. Sel Anderson and I share this supply, which appears to be continuous.

So, there you are- the secret of scrounging is to ask the question. The answers can be very rewarding.

Lach Christie Alias "*THE SCROUNGER*"

Lach, Rest in Peace

It is up to us to ensure we do not let him down.

Lach Christie and The Wanneroo/Joondalup Group

As one of Lach's sons said at his funeral Lach always put in more than he expected to take out of any organisation he belonged to. The Wanneroo/Joondalup group of WAWA was no exception. He was always a willing demonstrator, and generally in the midst of any activity. His happy nature was infectious and his ability to ferret out and distribute "Freebies" is legend. We all benefited from his thoughtfulness and generosity. At yesterday's meeting we pledged to make this year's toy making a memorable one out of our love and respect for Lach. *Written by Viv Paust*

My Friend Lach Christie

My dear friend and mate Lach Christie passed away last week. We have been mates for nearly fifty years and I can write a book about our friendship. On his marriage to Rhonda, I was privileged to be his best man and our lives crossed in so many ways over the years. We spent the 60s and 70s on weekends skindiving and waterskiing and together we built our second boat. Our families spent holidays together during these early days and our respective children grew up together, my eldest daughter even babysitting their youngest children.

I met Lach through his brother Don when they were in the printing business. Lach was a great help to me when I was setting up Youngs WA in Victoria with regard to my printing business. When Lach and Don later sold the printing business and Lach successfully moved into selling real estate he again gave me the opportunity to do what I always wanted to do - design and construct buildings. Lach gave us our first tenant to get the ball rolling. Thanks to Lach I enjoyed the next 30 years doing what I enjoyed.

Lach was a 100% dedicated man no matter what he did. He was involved over the years in the YMCA, Masonic Lodge, Rotary, Rostrum, Karrinyup Golf Club and woodturning. Not just as a member but an active contributor to those bodies.

Having travelled with Lach many times there was never a dull moment and although its hard to believe we never in all those years had a cross word.

I will really miss him as many others will and he will always be remembered in woodturning circles as the Toy Man, and I hope his legend carries on for the benefit of our members and the underprivileged children that we all help through Lach's example. *Written by Joe Clark*