

Good times roll for Ballina branch

A night at the Nautilus Bar and Grill at the Ballina Beach Resort made for a relaxing way to end the year for the Woollam's team at Ballina.

Almost 30 staff members gathered on Friday, November 30 to enjoy each other's company and toast the end of what has been a busy and fruitful year for the company's most southern branch.

The tropical surrounds of the resort provided the perfect background for a mouth-watering menu that included porterhouse steak, barramundi fillets, chicken skewers, gourmet sausages, beef medallions, vegetarian and prawn skewers.

This year's Christmas party was also a great opportunity for some of Woollam's newest employees to meet the rest of the Ballina branch and members of the company's management team.

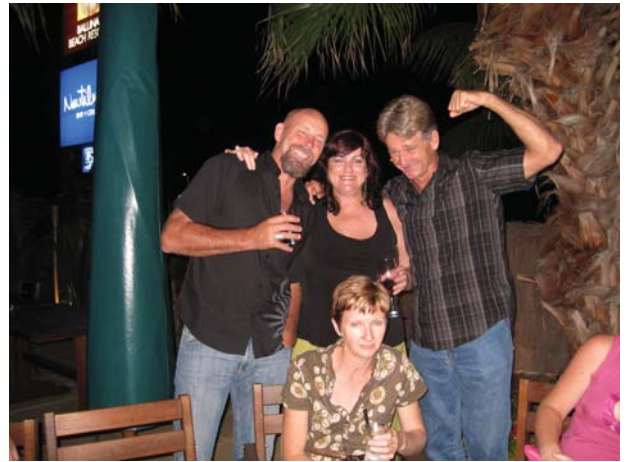
Newcomers Lauren Waldock, who joined the Ballina office almost one month ago, as administration officer and Jodi Wilson, who started early June as estimator's assistant, both had the chance to meet a few people and put names to faces at the event.

Delicious food and good times were followed by a few rounds of drinks which had staff partying the night away at the resort until midnight.

"The night was fantastic, really relaxing and good way for people to catch up with each other socially after a busy year in the office and out on the sites," staff said.



▶ Vicki, Kelly and Russell.



▶ Stephen, Sharon and Gary and Michelle.



▶ Jacqui, Glen and Fred.



▶ Sharon, Lauren, Jodi and Kelly.

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George's Say



This year has been a busy and successful year for Woollams thanks to the hard work and dedication of office and site staff from all four branches.

We've seen the completion of a number of major projects including the \$14 million Crowley Village Apartments at Ballina. The project was finalised in June after almost two years of work under the coordination of site manager Mick McGown.

The company also wrapped up refurbishments to the Souths Rugby League Club Mackay. Staff from the Mackay branch were able to experience first hand the quality of Woollam's work when they held their green, black and white themed Christmas party in the club's new function room.

The past 12 months also have seen a few renovations on the home front with Rockhampton and Ballina staff moving into their new offices and Mackay settling into their recently renovated office.

The company will be looking at opportunities for a new office for the Brisbane branch in the New Year. I would also like to issue a special thanks to Ric White for his efforts in holding the Brisbane office together after the untimely departures of a few staff members.

The success of 2007 has paved the way for yet another hectic schedule next year. In 2008 we'll see the start of construction of Carina Nursing Home in Brisbane and the completion of the Blue Lagoon project in Mackay.

As 2007 draws to a close however, I want to thank everyone for their valuable input during the past year. I wish everyone a safe and happy Christmas and a prosperous and exciting New Year.

Merry Christmas everyone!

George Bogiatzis
Managing Director

Rockhampton team farewell company stalwart

When Woollam Constructions' retiring manager Jim MacGregor arrived at Rockhampton's Glenmore Homestead one Saturday night and recognised a few of his colleagues' cars in the parking lot – he realised something fishy was going on.

Jim's family had told him earlier they were taking him out for dinner 'somewhere different'.

But little did Jim know that 81 of his former work mates, friends and family had gathered for a surprise party at the homestead to share a Christmas drink and say their heartfelt farewells.

When Jim, who is retiring after 37-years of loyal service with Woollams, discovered the Rockhampton branch had put on a massive party in his honour, he was 'gob smacked'.

To formally mark the November 10 occasion, Bob MacGregor (Rockhampton Manager and Jim's second eldest son), George Bogiatzis (Managing Director) and Craig Percival (Director) made speeches to mark Jim's significant contribution to the company.

A touching poem that traced Jim's career from a young gun to a leader was presented by Trevor Black, while a pile of presents including a timber, five-litre cedar keg (full of port) with the 'D.J. MacGregor Wines with the MacGregor family crest' branded on one end and 'Brewed & Packaged for T.F. Woollam & Son 1970 - 2007' on the other was handed over.

Jim also received the 'TF Woollam's Mr MacGregor Poem' framed with photos of his working life.



Ian MacGregor George Bogiatzis Scott Wedgwood
Trevor Black Craig Percival Jim MacGregor Chris Devlin..



David McNichol Jim MacGregor Garry Mason



Col and Phyllis Kreis, Jim and Liz MacGregor and
Marie Rutherford.



Beefa, Jim Large, Jim MacGregor, Mark Brodel,
Trevor Black, David MacGregor.

Brisbane staff bowl for barramundi and rump steak

When staff from Woollam Constructions Brisbane branch received their invitation to the annual Christmas party this year, there was no need for the ladies to rush out and buy a new frock or the lads to choke on the thought of a too-tight tie.

This year Brisbane staff were being treated to a very different Christmas celebration which called for employees to team up and tough it out on the shiny boards at the local tenpin bowling alley.

Scores of employees flooded Milton's trendy tenpin bowling centre on November 17 to see which team would triumph as the new king of the pins.

Donning their special lace-up bowling shoes Brisbane staff took team sport to a new level.

Some said it was a pretty relaxed affair, others considered the night a great opportunity for staff from the office and site divisions to mingle face to face.

But a small group of competitors had a different perspective when they lightheartedly complained that organisers had set up teams that were 'rigged'.

Cries of foul play and fancy footwork were quickly suppressed, when a delicious barbecue of rump steak and barramundi was served to the hungry masses.

Later in the night one of Brisbane's site managers, fondly referred to as Woollam's very own Vin Diesel, decided to turn up the heat when he took off his shirt at the private bar to reveal a buffed upper body.

The bowling competition was hotly contested, but in the end it was the team of Matt and Angela, Luke and Rachelle, Richard and Rosalind who scored King Pin bragging rights for champion bowling.

Second place went to Glen and Mardi, Paul and Allison and Brad while the bronze was brought home by David and Charmaine, Karen and Raymond, Greg and Jenna.

The winning teams went home with a smile on their faces after being named 'king pin champions'.



► Dianne Lynch and Wayne Jensz.



► Ric White, Glenn and Mardi Goodwin.



► George Bogiatzis, Craig Percival and Scott Wedgewood.



► Matt, Arnie, Ric and Craig (Vin Diesel).

Borat visits Mackay for charity

Christmas celebrations for Woollam's employees at Mackay took on a Kazakhstani flavour this year when one Christmas reveler accepted a dare to strip down to a 'Borat-style' leotard all in the name of charity.

Almost 220 Woollam's party goers turned out at the South Leagues Club on November 24, to celebrate the end of 2007 with great food, close friends and the upbeat tunes of local seven-piece band Hench.

The event was the first to be held in the recently renovated Souths League Club function room. The impressive refurbishment was a Woollam's project and reports have it that staff christened the new facility in style.

The room and tables were decorated with clusters of helium balloons sporting the company's new corporate colours of white, green and black. Guests got into the swing of things with most patrons donning outfits with the new colours also.

According to one reveler, the party really got going when well-known employee 'Woody', who unbeknown to the rest

of the audience was hiding a Borat leotard under his suit, was dared to get on stage and get his kit off.

Woollam's management weighed into the challenge with the lure of a substantial financial donation for a local charity if Woody went through with it.

To the audience's amusement, Woody rose to the occasion by stripping off his suit to reveal a green and black leotard in the same fashion as fictional Kazakhstani journalist Borat Sagdiyev aka Sacha Baron Cohen.

It was a brave act and one that raised a significant amount of money for the local prostate association.

The audience also chipped in when a hat was passed around the dinner tables so guests could make their own financial contribution.

Patrons were served up a first-class buffet dinner and desert, and for the rest of the night Woollam's staff danced to the sounds of 'Mustang Sally', toasted the festive season and had a great time until the wee hours of the morning.



▶ Tracey Percival, Cheryl Lane, Michelle King.



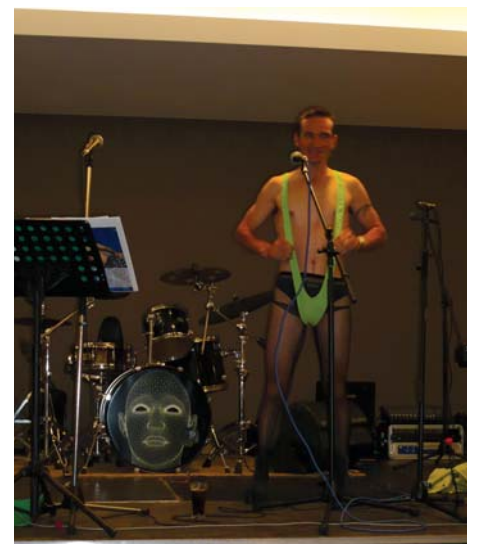
▶ Kerrod Toby, Brad Christensen, Ashley Spencer and Stephanie.



▶ Amy Bugeja, Kaitlyn Thorning.



▶ Brian Lenz with George and Helen Bogiatzis.



▶ Woody (Brant Wood) - Our own Borat!