

George's say

While the start of the year kicked off a little slowly, six months into 2008 it's all systems go. Our Brisbane office is preparing to relocate across town, with staff expected to move into the new premises at 71 Lytton Road early August. Refurbishment work to the ground floor, which will be leased out to tenants and the first floor, which will be dedicated to Woollams, are both well underway.

While most of us cringe when we hear the words 'staff performance review', I'm pleased to report a lot of positive feedback has been received from all levels of staff during the May and June appraisals. I encourage everyone to use these sessions as a way of mapping out future goals to work towards.

In-house activity also has involved ongoing consultations with staff for the 'Woollam's Way' quality assurance procedures review. We're hoping to have this process wrapped up by Christmas and will be looking to get as much feedback from staff as possible.

Out and about and Woollams has been maintaining a strong community profile. The company was proud to sponsor St Andrews War Memorial Hospital's 50th Anniversary Charity Ball which was held in Brisbane. To help with sponsorship Woollams booked a table of 10 for the May 17 event and was represented by a handful of staff and partners on the night.

Last but not the least of company news is Ballina branch's successful tender on the \$2.5 million Ballina-Byron Gateway Airport makeover. This is a major project for Ballina and an excellent addition for Woollam's southern construction portfolio.

There's plenty more happening in the company, but you'll have to hit the Hammer to find out.



George Bogiatzis
Managing Director

Woollams wave goodbye to Newmarket

After more than 40 years at its current location in Newmarket, Woollam Constructions head office is on the move and ready to take over the company's new headquarters at East Brisbane.

Refurbishment work to the multi-level former P and H MinePro building at 71 Lytton Road is well underway and plans are on track for staff to relocate early August.

Sixteen staff members work out of the company's Brisbane office, including Woollam's managing director George Bogiatzis.

The new company headquarters is close to the south-east freeway, the gateway arterial and is in a good position to access the proposed inner-city bypass.

As WC Hammer went to print, builders were preparing the ground level for a total interior refit.

Woollam's estimator Chris Devlin said contractors had stripped out the carpet and existing work stations downstairs. Mr Devlin said the lower level would

receive a new coat of paint, carpet and a new air-conditioning system in preparation for tenants.

Woollams will be moving into the 635m² first floor of the building.

Mr Devlin said almost 50 per cent of the walls, ceilings and interior fitting on the first floor would be replaced to make way for new office facilities.

Amenities at the new premises will include a sophisticated reception area, work stations, new lunch room, central copy room and boardroom.

Inaspace Architects has been engaged to redesign the new site, which also will be getting an exterior facelift.

There also are a few rumours circulating about the new headquarters, which management are staying tight lipped about – something to do with Friday afternoons, beers and barbecues?

We'll keep you posted on that one.



Above left: George Bogiatzis and Scott Wedgwood take an authorised sneak preview of progress at the new office.
Above right: Work is well underway at the company's new HQ with renovations expected to be finished by August.



Woollam's Way process crucial for company's future success

The Woollam's Way Committee has been working hard during the past few months to give the company's current Quality Assurance (QA) system a serious and much needed shake-up.

During the next six months, Craig Percival, Scott Wedgwood, Arno Tretter and Mick Cadzow as part of the Woollam's Way Committee will continue to comprehensively review the company's current QA system. The process is designed to streamline business systems from the top down to produce a workable and useable set of guidelines that staff can incorporate into their daily work schedules.

Woollam's Business Development Manager Scott Wedgwood said the process would help to retain aspects of the company's current QA system that have been successful for Woollams.

"The processes that we know are already working for the company will be streamlined and further developed for a new QA system that is now being referred to as the 'Woollam's Way'," Scott said.

"This process is not producing paperwork for the sake of having paperwork, it is designed to retain QA compliance and produce systems that are practical, useable and seamless, which people can use.

"QA compliance is tested by an audit process and if we lose our QA ranking, it could have serious ramifications for the company's future tendering process."

For the next six months, the Woollam's Way Committee will be rolling out monthly training sessions to spread the Woollam's Way message to all four offices.

The process will be fully implemented by January 2009 and is expected to help Woollams retain government-accredited quality assurance.

Payroll manager Arno Tretter said Woollam's Way also would help to maintain the company's unique attributes, long established methods of 'doing business' and delivery of personal service.

"Woollams has a lot of unique aspects that stand the company well ahead of other industry players," Arno said. "We need to combine the QA aspects that already are working for us with any new or innovative processes staff are using throughout the company so we can deliver the same quality product using the same compliant processes in all of our offices."

Woollams helps Brisbane stay clean and green

Woollams is actively helping to reduce the community's carbon footprint by getting involved with 'green projects'.

At the end of April, Woollam's Brisbane branch officially handed over the Amcor Recycling Facility which was built for Thiess Contractors at Petrie in Brisbane.

The development went ahead in two stages with work on the first phase, which was the \$4.1 million recycling facility kicking off in July 2007. Work on the second stage - the administration facilities and ancillary building worth almost \$750,000 started in January this year.

The recycling facility features automatic machines which sort 98 per cent of the rubbish. The different types of plastic are separated and containerised, glass is sorted into four different colour types, while newspapers, cardboard and containers also are separated.

All of the waste is sold at a profit and some of it is exported.

According to industry insiders, it won't be long before any waste including building rubbish will have a surcharge on it if it goes to landfill.

A big green thumbs-up to site manager for the project Darren Loth who worked alongside carpenter Eddie Spits.

Pictured right: One of Woollam's jobs in Brisbane this year was a multi-million dollar recycling plant.



Quick bits

WC Hammer heard there's a wedding on the horizon after Rocky foreman Clinton Bloomfield popped the question to long-time girlfriend Julie Bryant.

Apparently Clint's been planning the proposal since Christmas and has been trying to ask Julie for ages. He even tried writing the big question 'will you marry my daddy' on their one-year-old son's belly, but little Billy had the wiggles and kept moving around.

Clinton eventually asked Julie for her hand in marriage over a romantic dinner during the May Day Weekend. Julie had no idea it was happening and was completely shocked.

The wedding plans are underway and looks set to be held in March or April next year.

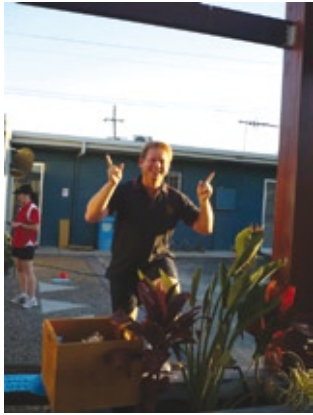
Congratulations!



Above: Congratulations are in order for Woollam's Clinton Bloomfield who proposed to the love of his life, Julie Bryant recently.

Hot off the sportsdesk

Personal Training Sessions



Woollam Constructions Mackay branch has been getting a little sweaty after work with personal training sessions putting the troops through their paces.

The exercise sessions are held out the back of the office in Mackay's new courtyard area.

WC Hammer has been told it's pretty well attended most of the time although some staff seem to work a little harder than others!

Top left: Woollam's tender co-coordinator and contracts administrator Gary McLeod steals the spotlight. **Bottom left:** (l-r) Christian (blue shirt), Gary (red shirt), Cheryl (black top), Joelene (pink top) warm up with trainer Selena. **Bottom:** (l-r) Joelene, Craig, Christian, Gary and Cheryl smile despite the pain. **Bottom right:** It's smoko and beer o'clock time for Marie and Cameron who oversee Craig sweating it out doing some situps under the guidance of trainer Selena.



Qld Reds players visit Woollams



Above: (l-r) Reds' player Charlie Fetoai, Rob Tisdell Bluewater Lagoon site manager, John Roe Queensland Reds, Cameron Robinson Woollam's project manager, Marie Schlosser Bluewater Lagoon contracts manager and Queensland Reds' player Leroy Houston.

The Bluewater Lagoon may not be finished yet but already the eagerly awaited project is attracting some of the State's biggest sporting celebrities.

Queensland Reds rugby squad members fanned out across the state in April this year for a series of junior coaching clinics and community visits as part of the Xstrata 2008 Regional Development Tour.

The aim of the tour is to help encourage participation and the growth of rugby and promote physical activity for young people.

As part of the tour Reds' players John Roe, Charlie Fetoai, Leroy Houston dropped in to say hello to Woollam's staff and check out the progress of one of the town's biggest projects.

Woollam's soccer celebrity named man of the match

You won't find Brisbane-based Woollam's administrator Luke Smith downing too many coldies of a Saturday afternoon.

It's not because the 25-year-old doesn't like a beer or two, but rather Saturday night is soccer night for Luke and as it stands, his Slacks Creek Tigers' soccer team is on the top of the table for their annual winter competition.

The Premier Men's Division Two is a pretty fierce competition but Woollam's winger Luke is up to the challenge after already taking out the man of the match award early in the competition when his team defeated the opposition 3-1 with two of the goals scored by Luke.

Added to this accolade are numerous appearances in the local newspaper the Albert and Logan News for the mad keen soccer fan.

Luke, who has been playing soccer since the age of five, has been working with Woollams for the past three years.

Congratulations to Luke and his wife Rachele who are expecting their first child next year.

Colleagues go head to head

When Queensland Rugby League FOGS Cup players Greg Malenstein and Ryan McBride were forced to go head to head in a recent game, there were a few people in the Brisbane office concerned the two footy players who play for different teams and both work for Woollams would come to blows.

On the contrary, WC Hammer heard the two men stayed well clear of each other during the game, playing at opposite ends of the field.

Back on the job site construction cadet Greg who plays for Redcliffe and Ryan, a Souths Logan Magpies player, remained friends despite the Magpies claiming sweet victory.

Staff profiles



Kirsty Crethar

Office administration

Eighteen-year-old Kirsty Crethar joined Woollam's Ballina team almost two months ago.

Born in Lismore and a true Ballina local, Kirsty is working in office administration and accounts.

Her main responsibilities at this stage include accounts payable as well as maintaining the plant and equipment register.

Prior to her appointment at Woollams Kirsty worked for Ballina accounting firm Gaertner and Associates.

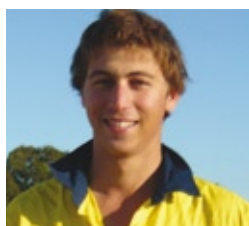
Kirsty said it was Woollam's long and established history in the Queensland and New South Wales building industry that held her attention when she saw her positioned advertised.

"After doing a bit of research I realised Woollams was a well established local company and is well known in Queensland," she said.

"Moving from an accounting firm to the building industry has been a great change of scenery for me – new work challenge, new people, different office – I've really enjoyed the whole process."

Outside of work you're more than likely to find Kirsty indulging in some retail therapy at Ballina shops or relaxing at South Ballina Beach.

"Ballina is a beautiful spot to live; with its unspoilt beaches and relaxed lifestyle I couldn't picture myself living anywhere else."



Matthew Stafford

Third year apprentice carpenter

Five minutes with 20-year-old Rockhampton lad Matt Stafford

1. What do you do for Woollams?

I'm a third year apprentice carpenter and started with Woollams in Rockhampton on January 7. At the moment I'm working on the Yeppoon Hospital.

2. Where can you usually be found on a Saturday night?

At a mate's house having a few drinks.

3. What CD are you listening to at the moment?

A mixed CD with a bit of everything on it.

4. I love it when ...

I get paid.

5. It frustrates me when...

I get stuck behind really slow drivers who are driving well below the speed limit.

6. What do you think about employees doing over time?

I don't really mind, if I have to do it I just think of the extra pay.

7. The last time I feared for my life ...

I was coming back from a fishing trip at midnight and we were driving our boat from Keppel Island back to Yeppoon Boat Harbour. It was pretty choppy and rough and there were a few moments when I didn't know if we would make it back safely or not.

8. When was the last time you had a good laugh?

Last weekend with my mates. We'd all had a few drinks and were having a great time.

9. What did you have for dinner last night?

Pizza – meatlovers.

10. One of my favourite memories is ... New Year's Eve on the Gold Coast two years ago. A few mates and I booked a hotel on the Coast and drove down the day before New Years to spend New Year's Eve in Surfers Paradise. We had an awesome night. Surfers was a real eye opener.

Contact

Brisbane

2 Garden Terrace,
Newmarket, Brisbane

Ph: 07 3356 0118

Fax: 07 3856 4767

Mackay

36 East Gordon Street, Mackay

Ph: 07 4957 6815

Fax: 07 4957 2014

Rockhampton

31 Quinn Street,
Kawana, Rockhampton

Ph: 07 4927 1711

Fax: 07 4922 2613

Ballina

31 De Havilland Crescent, Ballina

Ph: 02 6686 0544

Fax: 02 6686 0477

Newsletter contributions

If you have any photos or stories that could be included in WC Hammer please contact Sally Gordon at Crook Publicity on (07) 3220 0310 or email: sally@crookpublicity.com