



# CARLINES

Issue 4, 2008



## THANKS FOR EVERYTHING, DEAN

Car Craft's manager of 12 years bids us a fond farewell

### CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE:

Dean has been a great asset to our organisation and will be sorely missed.

Through the course of time our company has altered direction and implemented change and Dean has always been prepared to accept and implement those changes willingly. I am sure if you were to cut Dean he would bleed Car Craft.

As Chairman I have worked closely with Dean and had a great working relationship with him. His manner is professional and he has always represented the organisation with the best interests of our members at heart.

Dean's enthusiasm is one of the reasons we have enjoyed the success we have to date. It has been a pleasure working with Dean and I feel as much a friend as a

work colleague. While it is sad to see him leave us, I wish him and Marion every success for the future and I hope we can stay in touch. Cheers Dean.

**Michael Wilkinson**  
**Peter Wilkinson & Company**

It is with great sadness that the Car Craft Group prepares to farewell Dean Taylor.

Dean commenced employment with Car Craft in 1996 and is only the second manager of the group over the 22 years of its life. He came to the group following an army career and then several years in management roles with BP Australia.

Dean has overseen healthy growth and expansion of the Car Craft companies during his 13 years as Group Manager. The business was originally formed in 1987 with great foresight by some of the leading body repair businesses operators in WA and operated as an approved repairer network and a buying group.

In 1997 Car Craft Investments Ltd was incorporated to expand the business opportunities for the group's members and it is this company that owns the two office buildings and the invoice discounting operations. Dean has nurtured the finance business

into a thriving operation and it is now an important income stream for the shareholders. Originally for Car Craft members, the business has expanded by offering the invoice discounting services to repairers outside the group and then to commercial operations in the general business community.

Much of the expansion came through Dean's networking ability and his variety of contacts both in the body repair industry and the general business community.

He also managed the transition to the Welshpool premises which the shareholders in Car Craft Investments own (in partnership with the bank at this stage). The company has retained ownership of the unit in the Como Corporate Centre which was Car Craft's previous offices.

Dean and his wife Marian purchased a house on the Gold Coast several years ago and are leaving WA to live in Qld. Dean leaves Car Craft on 9th January 2009.

### CAR CRAFT GROUP

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# CAR CRAFT SPONSORSHIP ASSISTS BATTEN DISEASE SUFFERERS

Coping with one child suffering from an incurable disease is hard enough.

In the case of Debbie and Peter Wilkie from Quinns Rock they have to contend with both their daughters being struck down by an extremely rare neurodegenerative disorder known as Batten Disease.

Seven year old Brodie is completely immobile and confined to a wheelchair and Amanda, aged five is now also wheelchair-bound.

They rely on their mother Debbie and stepfather Peter to provide the around-the-clock care they need.

Batten Disease, for which there is no known cure, usually results in young victims losing the ability to walk, crawl, talk and even feed themselves.



Above: Debbie and Peter Wilkie, parents of Brodie and Amanda, were clearly touched while receiving the donated van. Left: Wayne Phipps MC for the evening. Right: The specially modified van.

The Car Craft Group, as major sponsor of the Motor Industry Foundation has assisted the family by providing a Toyota Hiace capable of taking two wheelchairs and with air conditioning to keep the girls' temperature regulated. The van caters for a family of six as there are two older children.

Dean Taylor, Car Craft Group Manager said "It's an honour for us to be a part of the Foundation's work in trying to make the Wilkies' lives a bit easier. We are committed to supporting the Motor Industry Foundation and showing we care about the local community.

The specially modified van was presented to the Wilkies at a dinner at Han Palace Restaurant in August 2008.



## CAR CRAFT SPONSORS I-CAR

The Car Craft Group has entered into a corporate sponsorship arrangement with I-Car Australia the independent motor industry training company which launched in Australia two years ago.

I-Car will conduct its training courses at Car Craft House which will be identified as an Approved I-Car Training Facility. Car Craft's website will also contain a link to [www.i-car.com.au](http://www.i-car.com.au).

Car Craft saw the benefit of positioning itself alongside one the leading international training organisations with the belief that I-Car Australia

can bring important post-trade skills training the motor industry and in particular the motor body repair industry.

For example I-Car has recently launched its Welding Qualification Testing, an accreditation program which will certify the ability of collision repairers who are capable of performing a series of Steel GMA (MIG) welds that are measured against a set of published criteria.

Car Craft is committed to providing a range of business services to its members primarily, but to the industry in general and looks forward

to a long and rewarding relationship with I-Car.

Car Craft's new training room is available for hire at very reasonable rates. The room accommodates up to 25 people in a U shaped seated format or it can be used for social events with standing room for up to 70 people.

The room is fully equipped with a data projector, screen, whiteboard, flip chart and catering can be provided if required. Please contact Noelle Simons on (08) 9356 9188 for more information.



## END OF YEAR CELEBRATION

The group held its End of Year Christmas celebration at Friends Restaurant at the Hyatt on Saturday, 22 November 2008. As usual we were treated to a wonderful five course dinner which was presented with precision and perfection by Clyde and Leslie Bevan from Friends. The entertainment this year was provided by several tribute acts – Tom Jones, Neil Diamond and Absolute Kylie livened up the audience with all the well know hits and then The Big Bopper wowed everyone, performing way beyond his contracted time.

The joint was rocking with the tiny dance floor swamped forcing people onto the stage and between the tables. The entire restaurant participated in dancing and singing along with the beleaguered entertainer who took everything in his stride including an Italian version of Happy Birthday at midnight for Russell Smith from T & R's Prestige Smash Repairs 50th birthday.

In the formalities of the evening there was a special presentation to **Les Kernutt** from Newtown Toyota as a farewell and thank you to him for his service to Car Craft members over the years.

Other awards were won by;

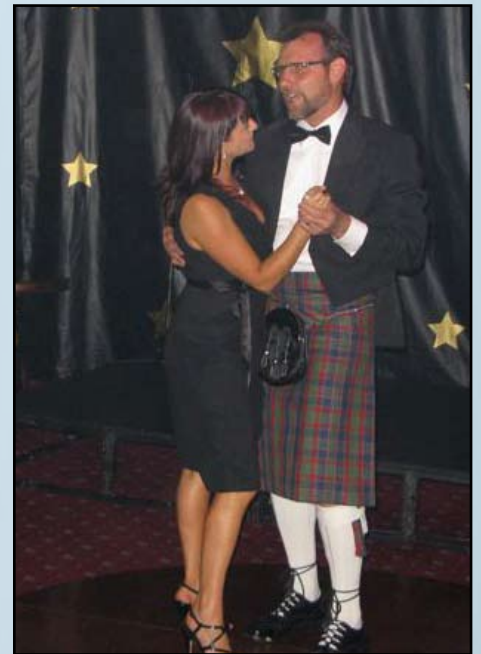
**Newtown Toyota - Supplier of the Year** (chosen via member survey).

**Member of the Year - Gino's Panel and Paint (Basil Scagliotta)** won the Member of the Year for the second year in a row (chosen by the suppliers).

**Most Improved Member - Jandakot Truck and Car Smash Repair (Adam Fallows)** in recognition of the member whose parts purchases have had the biggest percentage increase in the year.

**Special Award – to Clyde and Leslie Bevan** in acknowledgement of their wonderful service over 14 years of Christmas functions for the Group.

It was a great night!



## NEW MEMBERS

The Car Craft family welcomes two new members into the group. Neil Pollock and Rob Ettridge (top left) from Wanneroo Smash Repairs and Michael O'Leary and Graeme Pollock (bottom left) from Balcatta Smash Repairs are members as from 1 October 2008.

The two shops are very important to the demographic spread of the group as they are in the northern suburbs where Car Craft Accident Repair Centres have been under represented.

Importantly for the Car Craft image they are thriving businesses that are professionally operated.

The partners in both the businesses have trade backgrounds in the motor industry and have worked as assessors for insurance companies so their perspective is very well rounded.

We welcome them to the group and look forward to a long and rewarding relationship.

## LOCAL HERO

Leo Caratti and his wife Sev run the very successful Mirage Spraypainters & Panelbeaters in Belmont. However on weekends Leo becomes a competitive pistol shooter and has done so for 33 years. He won his first competition in Kununurra in 1975 and in 1992 won a Gold Medal in the Oceania Games in a Rapid Fire international event. He was chosen in the national squad for the Olympic trials that year but had to withdraw due to work commitments.



Nonetheless has he continued to compete at elite level and has represented WA in the national titles held each year at Easter. He is currently ranked 29th (world wide) in the World Association 1500 competition.

In 1989 he broke a State record for the Rapid Fire event that had stood for 18 years and held it for seven years until a shoulder injury forced him out of competition for a short period.

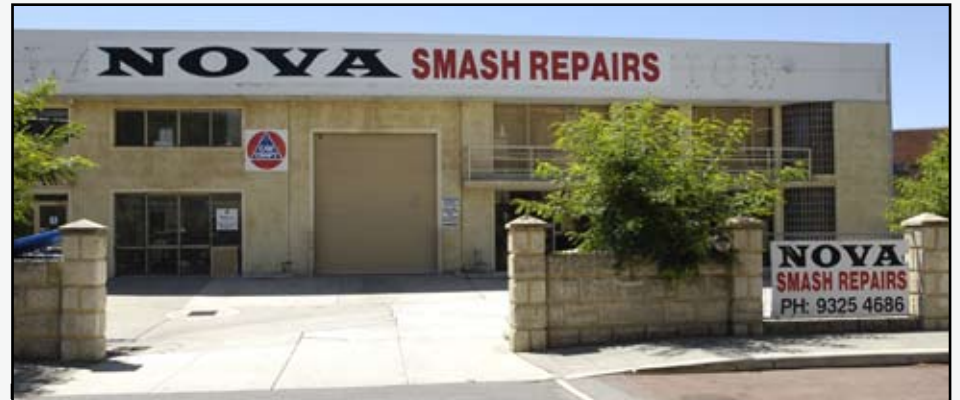
Leo says has boxes and boxes of trophies but the first two mean the most.

He has changed disciplines as he has matured and now competes in holster events. His current weapon is a German made replica of a western style pistol. He says that the skills required for shooting are excellent eye/hand co-ordination, total concentration and the ability to focus and a positive mental attitude.

He says he visualises hitting the target; a method used by many sportsman and sometimes referred to as 'shot visualisation' whereby the participant visualises where the ball/bullet etc is to land. Leo believes these learned techniques have assisted him greatly in business and in life in general.

Leo continues to shoot three times a week and loves the sport. He will compete in the national titles again next year in Cessnock in northern New South Wales at Easter.

## CAR CRAFT HIGH ACHIEVERS



The winners of the 2008 AAMI/ Australasian Panel & Paint AUTOBODY REPAIRER OF THE YEAR (WA) for both Small & Large Shops are both Car Craft members.

Peter Wilkinson & Co won the Large Shop (WA) award. Neill Powell from Sydney TAFE, one of the judges of the award summed up Michael Wilkinson's attitude to his business in these words;

"Wilkinson is at the cutting edge of the repair business in the West. He evaluates new technology before adopting it and uses only quality and useful techniques. It's a commentary on the way he runs his business. Quietly achieving and thinking five years ahead, not just next week."

Nova Smash Repairs won the Small Shop (WA) award. Panel & Paint magazine noted that Sal Martino made the decision to become smaller and work smarter to be better. Sal has also taken on a manager Kevin Bignell whose expertise in the paint area and management skills has made significant improvements to the business.

Powell's view on this business is:

"Nova won the WA New Shop Award in 2005 and since then it has developed its business to include a manager, allowing him to develop it into a tight and efficiently run commercial operation.

Car Craft congratulates its high achievers.

## CAR CRAFT AGM

The Annual General Meeting of Car Craft Panel & Paint Ltd was held on Tuesday 14th October 2008. The Car Craft Directors for the 2008/9 year are;

Chairman: **Michael Wilkinson** – Peter Wilkinson & Co Pty Ltd

Vice Chairman: **Basil Scagliotta** – Gino's Panel & Paint

Directors: **Wayne Phipps** – Wayne Phipps Smash Repairs  
**Viv Ellis** – Meltham Motors  
**Ashley Jardine** – Port Kennedy Smash Repairs  
**Stephen Dale** – Uneeda Tyre & Smash Repairs (Seconded)

Car Craft's new website is now live and we invite you to visit the site and provide feedback. Let us know what you think, go to [www.car-craft.com.au](http://www.car-craft.com.au)