

The Official Newsletter of the Shire Woodworking Club Inc | Reg No Y2889524 | ABN 15 974 163 667

“The Workshop” - 2B Turriell Bay Road, Lilli Pilli NSW 2229

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Editor: 0408 240 514 website : <https://shirewoodworking.com.au>

Happy
New Year



Maxi Day - 14th Dec

PRESIDENT'S REPORT – JANUARY 2025

8:45	Open Lilli Pilli Workshop
9:00	Monthly Meeting
9:30	Ian's Videos
10:00	Morning Tea
10:30	Guest Speaker -Stewart Jamieson, Paint Wholesalers
11.30	Show & Tell/Buy Swap Sell
12.00	Excellence Awards Judgding
12:30	Lunch
1:00	Excellence Awards Pres
1.30	Raffle

Welcome to 2025 and I hope everybody had a great Xmas/New Years break.

I would like to welcome all club members back to the club.

I would like to thank the clubs Committee and Sub-Committee members for their tireless efforts during the year.

We had a successful December with the sales from the two Bunnings events and the Woollooware Shores and Sutherland Hospital, thanks to all who made it possible.

I would like to thank all those members who contributed to the constant supply of toys and other items that were sold at our events and supplied to the various charity events during the year.

I would also like to thank those members who contributed their time to make those events a success.

The charities were very appreciative of the items supplied.

We look forward to continuing our support of the various charities during 2025.

The year ahead looks good with good sales for the first half of the financial year to date.

With increasing member interest in the new CNC router we will continue to train those interested in using the machine, Alan has done a great job getting the machine up and running. Ray is currently finalising the upgrade of the dust extraction system to accommodate the new router.

The new scroll saw (from Gary Hitchell) has proved a valuable replacement to the broken machine.

Reminder: Safety – Safety is the responsibility of every member of the club.

Can all Club members please make yourselves familiar with the Clubs EVACUATION PROCEDURE, lives may depend on it.

Gary Healey - President

SHOW AND TELL

Little Grand Piano

Ray Bywater



To make my model I used some parts taken from a small plastic upright piano, especially the key board which would have been too difficult to make.

I cut the inner and outer shapes in 2 sections before glueing them together, then made the bottom and top. The lid was fitted by recessing the Piano hinge.

I then added the keyboard, nameplate and foot pedals.

Normally my models are left unpainted, but I think all grand piano's must be black.

The stay for the lid is the hinged earpiece of a pair of spectacles.

The music box is fitted upside down to avoid having the winder protrude through the side, which made it difficult to fit the spring loaded on/off switch.

Ian Rudd kindly made two mirror bases with cutouts for the legs as I gave him the wrong dimensions for the first one!

Rafferty Chair - Jan Westerhof

Doug O'Hara



Jan presented these two chairs at our November Maxi Day and requested help in restoring. Doug took up the challenge and provided the following explanation of his work. Doug hopes to complete early 2025.

This is a Rafferty Chair with a paper fibre rush seat. This is a standard rush chair often referred to as a latter back chair. The frame has been cleaned and refinished to ensure it is glued securely ready for the seat weaving. The seat is made with twisted paper rope made from biodegradable material 4.5mm diameter in a 40-metre coil. The coil is initially dipped in clean cool water to allow it to absorb some moisture prior to drying on a towel prior to starting the weaving onto the seat frame. The end of the rope is fixed to the underside of the left frame with an upholstery tack then the weaving of the rope across the chair frame is commenced to create a triangular pattern that closely matches the companion chair.

The weaving across the frame opening need to ensure the rope is at all times constantly tensioned and compacted to ensure each rope strand closely touches each other throughout the weaving.

The process of weaving requires patience and frequent stops to tension the rope to ensure the tightest possible weave pattern. The rope is joined on the underside of the seat by reef knotting and then hiding the knot under the prior weave. If seat stiffing is needed this is achieved using cardboard inserts under the weaved pattern so they are never visible.

Finishing of the seat surfaces is achieved by using a very light coating of shellac varnish. A final light clear varnish coat is applied to help the chair surface resist dust buildup and give the seat finish a clean look.

Charcuterie Boards

Tony Browne



The Charcuterie Boards I made from a Jacaranda tree that died after the 2020 fires on my farm in Kangaroo Valley. The timber laid in my carport for 3 years before slicing, then 9 months in the workshop till the imagination came into place, shaped, engraved and waxed with mineral oil.



In 2022 the tree has regrown from the base I planted in 1992.

Turned Spotted Gum Burl Bowl

David Johnson



I was originally going to turn the burl leaving much of the outside natural, but when inspected further it had more chainsaw damage to the exterior and quite a bit of dry rot. I set it up on a face plate to enable the recess to be turned in the bottom. This also allowed me to turn the outside. I reversed the burl holding it by the recess and commenced turning the inside. I got a lot turned and stopped for lunch. When recommencing turning, I had a severe dig in, which ripped the burl out of the lathe. On reattaching it by the recess, it was running out of true. I could not get it running true at all. The next morning, I discovered that the lathe headstock had also moved when I had the dig in. After realigning the lathe, I completed the inside of the bowl and then sanded.

The inside is finished with food safe bees wax and mineral oil mix, and the outside finished with Danish oil.

Alan Ritchie

Used as place mats between a serving dish or bowl to protect the table from heat damage.

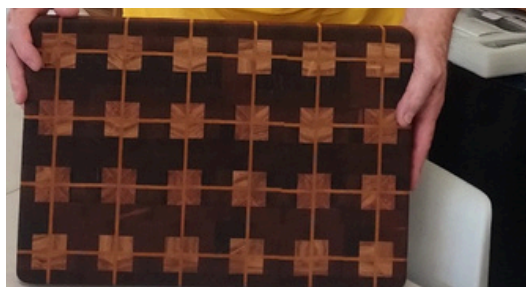
Further designs of our trivets using features of the CNC design software. They are all sanded and cleaned up and finished with our mineral oil and bees wax mix. I have now designed some more with trees, cats and dogs as the feature carving.



Trivets



Basket Weave Cutting Board



Ian Rudd

The basket weave cutting board was made using Merbau, Mountain Ash and Redgum. After joining strips a jig using a strong toggle clamp was used to cut the various exact lengths that are required to achieve the basket weave design. The board was sanded and coated with mineral oil and beeswax.

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Lecturn

Tim Dodds



As co-ordinator for the Awards Night of RMYC-Port Hacking Sailing Division, I identified the need for a lectern for the sub-club, which gave me a design and build challenge.

The aim was always to repurpose some of SWC's older timbers in the back shed. The design comprised a broad base, central slim column, and the top for papers, etc. Accordingly, I required timber that I could make into slabs sizes or about 400 x 500.

In the shed I came across a number of lengths of very old, quite decrepit dirty brown timber, which had a number of cracks and numerous holes and dents. As a repurposing project this looked ideal. I worked out which pieces I could use and cut them to size. I was surprised to see the timber was in fact a light honey colour.

At this stage I was talking to Ray Tregoning who was able to pass on that the timber was Australian Sassafras from north Australian coast and the pieces came from old government offices/buildings and was close to 100 years old.

I was very happy with the find, and starting pulling it all together. In some cases I had to join timber together to give me the desired width, and used the thicknesser and drum sander to get the desired size and finish. There was also a lot of holes and dents that required filling, or cutting so that most of them were discarded.

To add to the challenge, I designed it to comprise 3 separate pieces, so that the lectern could be disassembled for storage. This involved a lot of work, getting the column to slip into and out of the base with ease. After cutting out bad bits of timber and doing a few re-takes of mitred joins, I ended up using/discarding virtually all the timber (only 2 large pieces and 1 smaller) other than a cracked piece about 600mm long!

To finish I laser engraved the lectern with the club's logo, and a little bit of history of the timber. I'm very happy with the result and hope it gets another 100 years of life.



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Stall at Sutherland Hospital



During December the Shire Woodworking Club had been offered a Stall in the foyer of Sutherland Hospital where we could showcase and sell our items. The Hospital provided us with two large tables in front of the Donor Boards which we had supplied previously. Roger Dixon, Steve Lansley and Ian Rudd set up the stall and the Hospital generously provided free parking for the day.



Printed as a community service at the office of
SIMON KENNEDY MP
FEDERAL MEMBER FOR COOK



CLUB CHRISTMAS PARTY

We had a great Christmas party celebrated with over 40 club members. Weather was good although a bit warm. Our thanks go out to Ray Tregoning, Steve Lansley, Malcolm Armstrongs and several other elves who helped out in the kitchen and presentation of food to the club. Our normal chef (Richard Cain) was not able to attend (ill health) but Axel Tennie filled in for him preparing a sumptuous meal with Roger Dixon providing his normal Honey Glazed Ham. Axel's menu follows.



Christmas Day Menu

Free range bbq chicken
Wessex Saddleback 18 hour slow cooked pork
Honey glazed ham
Kiffler potato & egg salad
Organic green salad drizzled with 300 year old salad dressing recipe

Deserts

Stubbs hand crafted trifle
Hand picked private orchard fruits with a liquor infused sour cream.

Neil and Pat Matthews' 65th Wedding Anniversary



The 19th Dec 2024 was a significant day for Pat & Neil Matthews. It was their 65th Wedding Anniversary. And in all but a few months, also as Shire residents.

How did this begin, we go back to ancient history. In 1957 I was coming to the end of my electrician apprenticeship and was involved in the rural electrification of NSW in the Peak Hill region. I wired-up a new shearing shed for the Frecklington family (the same family that produced the Queens Coach builder, Jim Frecklington.) The shed was built to also be used as a dance hall. In 1958, I attended the first Woolshed dance there, and met a newly arrived Peak Hill school teacher from Bathurst. This was a great romance for both of us but after a few months, I had finished my apprenticeship and needed to go to Sydney to tech and get my Electricians licence. This involved a lot of motorcycle miles, and early 1959 Pat got a transfer to Orange, and with Pats home being Bathurst travelling became easier. Pat's mother told her after one of my visits "You'll marry this boy!" Pat replied "don't be ridiculous, He's got red hair, he rides a motorbike, he's younger than me, and more importantly he can't dance".

There must have been a charm there, as we got married later that year in the old Cathedral in Bathurst before it was demolished. We originally rented a flat in Bexley (the closed-in back veranda of a house). Shortly after, Pat was teaching in a two-teacher school in Arncliffe. The headmistress told Pat that there was a teacher from Peak Hill teaching across the street and she should go & say hello. This teacher had a boyfriend that had a house in Sylvania that he needed to rent. Great start, and 3 years later, we built our first house also in Sylvania. We consider ourselves shire residents and have raised 4 kids and owned renovated 5 houses in the shire and have enjoyed 65 years of wonderful married life here.

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BUNNINGS SALES

The evening of 5 December saw Gary Healey and Maurice Smith manning a desk in the Timber department of Bunnings for two hours. We had a display of items for sale. The evening was one for children, there were lots of reasons for children (and parents too) to attend, young farmyard animals, Father Christmas, a large Connect 4 game (made by our Club), a magic show, and so on. The number of children was high (as was the noise volume), lots of admiration for the toys for sale; a few enquiries about Club membership.

Saturday 7 December saw members, Gary Healey, Roger Dixon and Maurice Smith setting up a sales desk in the foyer of Bunnings Taren Point. We set up around 8.30 just as the Bunnings customer volume started to increase.

As has been our previous experience when having a sales desk in the Bunnings foyer we had quite a few members of the public come by and admire the quality of the items displayed for sale, as well as enquire about becoming a Club member. Quite a few membership brochures were given out to those enquirers, hopefully, some of those enquirers will make the effort to become members.

In addition to the admirers we also had customers who purchased toys, toast tongs, cutting boards, elf houses, wooden items galore.

THE FAMILY CO

The Club has been supporting The Family Co at Jannali (formerly Sutherland Shire Family Services) since 2010, with donations of toys and knitted dolls and animals at Christmas for them to distribute to less fortunate children in the Shire.



The Family Co exists “because all children and families should have a safe home, strong connections and opportunities to thrive in life”.

They provide "child, youth, family and parenting support, domestic and family violence support and education and training services".



The above photo shows most of the 78 items that were delivered to them on 11 December, just in time for them to be distributed to needy families and children for Christmas.

As usual they are extremely grateful to the Club for its continuing support over the last 15 years.

...**Graham Ethell**



Mark Speakman's visit to the club on the 27th Nov. 😊

Alan Ritchie provided a detailed explanation of our newly acquired CNC Router



Visit to Children's Hospital

In early December the Shire Woodworking club made another visit to The Children's Hospital Randwick to deliver a wide range of toys and items. Malcolm Armstrong, Steve Lansley, Axel Tennie and Ian Rudd were welcomed by the wonderful and inspirational team of Therapists and Nurses who provided a large chocolate cake for the occasion.

Our donations were taken into the Captain Starlight room, and we were able to describe some of the items which were shown on their CCTV being beamed to the various wards. A beautiful crochet rug made by Julie Edwards was given to one of the mothers of a patient and it was heartwarming to see the reaction that such a gift can make. Thank you, Julie, for your donations. We had previously been requested to make a large wooden heart for their Oncology team to be used as a wishing heart where Post It notes could be displayed.



**Important
phone
numbers**

Workshop: 02 9145 0308

Mob: 0490 861 606

Membership: 0414 538 475

Editor: 0408 240 514

GET TO KNOW US



Gary Healey - Club President

I grew up in Panania, NSW in 50's and 60's and went to East Hills Boys High School up to year 10, 1965.

My favourite subjects at school were technical drawing and woodwork. This led me to an apprenticeship as an Engineering Pattern Maker in a steel foundry in industrial Mascot, right behind the tanning works in O'Riordan Street, the westerly winds were not pleasant. In late 60's I decided that there was more to engineering than pattern making and commenced a Mechanical Engineering course while in the latter stages of my apprenticeship. During this time I met my wife and we were married in the early 70's and lived in Dee Why.

In 1970 I got a position of trainee Draftsman at Garden Island Dockyard. Looking back this was an interesting time, no CAD systems, plans drawn on tracing paper and traced onto film in the tracers department.

During this time at the dockyard I decided to undertake a Mechanical Engineering Degree, again part time. I was becoming a career part time student. During this time I started looking for something new, and got a position as Production Manager in a plastics injection moulding company, this was more challenging than the dockyard and gave me time to complete my Engineering Degree.

1976 my wife and I relocated to Caringbah, been here ever since.

Roll along the 1980's, and along came 3 children. I left the plastic company and along with a mate took over his fathers electrical contracting business and changed it to more mechanical engineering which aligned with our experience.

We involved ourselves in CAD design of metal components, jigs and fixtures and aligned the company with several robotic company's developing enclosures for the robots and their processes. These were related to palletising and welding.

The 1990's led to a crunch and we closed the business, due to bad debts.

After some freelance contracting I joined a large consulting company, Parsons Brinkerhoff who were involved with civil construction, roads, and resources processing coal and iron ore. After some minor projects around WA and NSW I was offered a position as Construction Supervisor/Manager at a coal mine development in South Africa, fly in/flyout, 6 week on, 2 weeks off. The client interview went "do you know how dangerous it is in South Africa" but I decide to try it anyway, along with 3 others from Australia. My role was in the supervision of the construction of the processing plant. It is an interesting place to work and visit. I had the opportunity to have my wife come over for 2 weeks instead of me coming home. My next large project was the Roy Hill iron ore project developed by Gina Reinhardt in WA.

At the termination of the project I returned to Sydney working on coal processing projects in the Hunter Valley. After 10 years there was a shift in the company with a new owner, an English civil engineering co.

My next adventure was with WaterNSW as a Project Manager/Project Engineer on dam infrastructure, around NSW. My main project was the refurbishment of the last remaining cableway at Burrinjuck Dam in NSW if not Australia. After 6 years I decided it was time to retire.

I have worked on some interesting projects and met some great people that I am still in contact with.

I still have a passion for woodworking.



COMEDY CORNER



A guy walks into a lumberyard & asks for some 2x4s. The clerk asks, "How long do you need them?" The guy answers, "A long time. We're gonna build a house."



NOTICE BOARD



Birthdays in January

1st Jan	Kevin Burke
17th Jan	Ray De Marco
27th Jan	Lynn Messenger
29th Jan	Tony Fenech
31st Jan	Ian Elton

New Members

Warren Monaghan

- Bring your cans and bottles to the club and take advantage of the re-cycling bins available. Some income for the club.
- Bring your unwanted tools to the club and use the buy/swap and sell arrangements available. Talk to a committee member before depositing.

Shire Woodworking Club 2025 Calendar

January 2025 1							February 2025 2							March 2025 3						
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April 2025 4							May 2025 5							June 2025 6						
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July 2025 7							August 2025 8							September 2025 9						
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October 2025 10							November 2025 11							December 2025 12						
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LEGEND:

- Club Days - Every Tuesday to Thursday + Saturdays **except 1st Saturday**
- Committee Meeting 12:30pm - Tuesday, prior to 2nd Saturday.
Note: Own projects catered for before & after meeting
- Maxi Day & General Meeting - 2nd Saturday.
- Toy Making Day - Last Thursday (Except December- 3rd Thursday) - **No own projects**

Note: Last club day for 2025 is Saturday 20 December. Resume Tuesday 6 January 2026
 Note: There must be a minimum of 3 members present on any day. No exceptions.

CLUB COMMITTEE, SUB COMMITTEES & AUXILIARY POSITIONS

President	Gary Healey
Vice President	Roger Walsh
Secretary	Maurice Smith - Ph : 0414 538 475
Treasurer	Alan Ritchie
Committee Member	Ian Rudd, Roger Dixon, Graham Ethell

Assistant Secretary	Roger Dixon
Assistant Treasurer	Roger Walsh
Project Sub-Committee	Gary Healey, Ray Tregoning
Librarian	Roger Walsh
Safety Officers	Gary Healey, Ian Rudd, Ray Tregoning
Welfare Officer	Malcolm Armstrong, & Kevin Gowen
First Aid Officers	Graham Ethell & Alan Ritchie
Newsletter Editor	Roger Walsh
Catering Officers	Axel Tennie Richard Cain, Steve Lansley, Neil Mathews, Ray Tregoning,
Equipment & Training	Roger Dixon, Ray Tregoning, Maurice Smith, Ian Rudd
Raffles	Gary Mitchell
FundRaising & Exhibitions	Graham Ethell, Ian Rudd, Malcolm Armstrong
Property Sub-Committee	Graham Ethell & Alan Ritchie, Maurice Smith
Toymaking	Malcolm Armstrong, Steve Lansley, Maurice Smith, Ian Rudd, Axel Tennie, Reno Sciberras
Facebook	Alan Ritchie
Webmaster	Maurice Smith
Woodcarvers' Liaison	