

**The Official Newsletter of the SHIRE WOODWORKING CLUB Inc.** Reg. No. Y2889524  
"The WORKSHOP", 2B Turriell Bay Road, Lilli Pilli. NSW. 2229  
Workshop Phone 0490 861 606 Membership Enquiries: (02) 9522 7674 Newsletter Editor: Phone 0414 538 475

**Last MaxiDay we learned a lot about balsa wood—what an amazing story**

Our guest was Mark Riley, maker of custom-made surf boards. What makes these boards different? They are made with a traditional foam centre but are covered with Basla wood, giving the boards much greater strength and thus, are most unlikely to snap as happens often with "traditional" surf boards.



Pictured opposite is Mark Riley, standing next to a Balsa covered surfboard, adjacent to that is a long plank on Balsa.

What was surprising is how light the long Balsa plank was. If that plank had been hardwood lifting the plank would have been a two hand job, but with Basla, it could be easily lifted with one hand.

Mark told us that Balsa originated in Ecuador, but is now commercially grown in Papua New Guinea as well as other countries with a very high rainfall in tropical environments. Mark is trialling growing Balsa in Tully in Queensland.

Mark had us amazed with some facts about the rapid growth rate of the Balsa tree. In 10 years it can grow to be 27 metres tall.

When kiln dried it has a very high strength to weight ratio and has many applications. As a young boy I recall using small pieces of Balsa to make models of planes, and I'm sure that many other readers will have similar experiences.

While looking into the various applications for Balsa I discovered that it is also valued as a component of full-sized light wooden aeroplanes, most notably the World War II de Havilland Mosquito.

Thanks to Mark for your visit and for regaling us about Balsa Wood.

**CLUB COMMITTEE:**

President: Ian Rudd  
Vice President: Malcolm Armstrong  
Secretary: Graham Ethell  
 Telephone 9522 7674  
Treasurer: Alan Ritchie  
Committee Members: Roger Dixon, David Edwards  
 Maurice Smith

**SUB-COMMITTEES & Auxiliary Positions**

Assistant Secretary: Roger Dixon  
Assistant Treasurer: Roger Walsh  
Project Sub-Committee: Gary Healey, Roger Walsh & Ray Tregoning.  
Librarian: Roger Walsh  
Safety Officers: David Edwards, Gary Healey, Axel Tennie & Bob Quigley,  
Welfare Officer: Malcolm Armstrong, & Kevin Gowen  
First Aid Officers: Graham Ethell, Alan Ritchie & Gary Healey  
Newsletter Editor: Maurice Smith  
Catering Officers: Richard Cain, Steve Lansley, Trevor Lewis, Neil Mathews, Lynn Messenger, Ray Tregoning, Axel Tennie & Roger Walsh  
Equipment & Training : Roger Dixon, David Edwards, Neil Mathews, Kevin Gowen, Gary Healey, Maurice Smith, Ray Tregoning & James Windschuttle  
Raffles: Gary Mitchell  
Exhibitions Sub-Committee: Graham Ethell & Steve Lansley  
Property Sub-Committee: Graham Ethell & Alan Ritchie  
Toymaking: Malcolm Armstrong, Barry Gardner, Steve Lansley, Neil Matthews, Glen Reeve, Reno Scriberras & Maurice Smith.,  
Facebook: Alan Ritchie  
WebMaster: Maurice Smith  
Woodcarvers' Liaison:

**Useful website of the month**

Alan Ritchie reports:  
 I've been looking at the web-site [www.festi.info/boxes.py](http://www.festi.info/boxes.py). This site generates plans for laser cut items such as boxes. You select the type of laser cut item you want, specify the material thickness and size of the item and it generates a suitable file, such as a SVG file or even a Lightburn file that can be loaded onto the club's laser computer. The generator considers the cutting width of the laser beam, so that you do not need to adjust dimensions get a tight fit for the item components. I have generated some test boxes and they fit together well.

*Editor here: Alan, that's a useful find indeed.*

If you would like to receive this Newsletter please email the editor at [theshirewoodworkingclub@gmail.com](mailto:theshirewoodworkingclub@gmail.com) or if you have an article that you think would be suitable for publication in this newsletter your Editor would be most pleased to receive it.

**MAXIDAY:  
 SATURDAY 16 JULY, 2023  
 AGENDA**

8:45am	Open Lilli Pilli Workshop
9:00am	Monthly Meeting
9:30am	Video — President Ian's selection
10:00am	Morning Tea
10:30am	Guest Speakers—Mirka Sanding products
11:30am	Show & Tell Pea & Ham soup
12:00noon	Lunch –
1:00pm	Raffle Draw
1:30pm	Members projects
3.00pm	Workshop Close

**President's Report**

Firstly, I would like to acknowledge the considerable work carried out by Roger Dixon in maintaining the induction records of every member. Our club now has over 100 members and it is a huge task in ensuring that members who actually use the workshop have been inducted on the use of the various machines. There is an up-to-date chart attached to the old office door that shows the induction status for each member for each machine. Please check that you have been inducted before using the club's machinery. If you have not been inducted, contact a committee member to arrange a suitable time for induction. Remember that Safety is your responsibility.

The Shire Woodworking Club has been successful in obtaining funding through the Sutherland Shire Community Grants program 2023/2024. The club will receive a generous sum to allow purchase of materials that will be used on our Laser Engraver to make toys and other items for the various charities we support. In particular, these funds will allow us to increase the volume and range of items we make for the Sydney Children's Hospital. In the past two months we have made two deliveries of laser designed boxes that have been personalised with the individual children's names. We gratefully acknowledge the continued support we have received from the Sutherland Shire Council.

There are still a number of planks available in the Gallery for members to enter the Plank Competition. The rules are attached to the plank and the quality of the planks this year are excellent. This is your opportunity to give back to the club an item that can be sold or donated to charity.

We have admitted a number of new members to our club in the past two months and it is always good to see new faces learning new woodworking skills. Please introduce yourself to the new members and wherever possible assist them to join in to our friendly club.

Happy Woodworking  
 Ian Rudd, President



## Special delivery of some lovely boxes for some Sydney Children's Hospital patients

The Club received a request from our contacts at Sydney Children's Hospital for a supply of our named boxes. As usual, President Ian Rudd was able to deliver the desired boxes. The two photos below show the boxes before delivery. Ian managed to co-opt several helpers with the process of colouring the lids; unfortunately, the laser machine can't do that for us (yet?).



## Photos of recent new members

Ken Brunker



Logan Kurtz



## Logan's first project

For Logan's first project, with assistance from Ian Rudd, a basket weave cutting board. This was a gift for his mother-in-law, whose name is engraved on the board. Hopefully, Logan report about this project will appear in a forthcoming edition of the newsletter.



# IS IT TIME TO GIVE CLOCK MAKING A GO?

Over recent times I have been asked to replace the quartz movements in several clocks. In addition, one of our members is interested in making a couple of quartz style movement clocks from a piece of Murray River Red Gum burl. I had a few quartz movements, but as usual, Murphy's Law applied and none in my stock were the correct shaft length nor were the hands. Thus a visit to the net to determine where and when to purchase the requirements. The net yielded local suppliers offering quartz movements and hands from \$10.00 to \$20.00 each plus postage. A visit to Amazon online found I could buy a pack of 7 movements plus 10 sets of hands for less than buying 2 sets from local suppliers and delivery was within 24 hours free. This I did and when packing the unused items into my stock I located an mdf box that I had forgotten I had. I think it must have come from our dear late member Fred Seligmann. Guess what was in the box? More quartz movements, hands and numerals. So with at least enough to make 15 clocks or thereabouts; I thought maybe we could make some for our Gallery.

Then comes the problem of what to make. So again onto the net. The following photos are provided to give you some inspiration of what to make. I think they call it "Thinking outside the Square" or should that be outside the clock circle. If you are interested please see me. Maybe we set up a day or two dedicated to clockmaking. What do think? *Barry Gardner*





# SHOW & TELL

## Gary Healy is reaching higher

Gary reports: Need – a place for schoolbags, grocery bags etc inside the front door to keep things off the floor.



The size was governed by the space available and height so that grandchildren had somewhere to sit to remove their shoes.

The bench seat was constructed from spotted gum donated by a local resident. The aim was to not use any screws, and as such, dominoes were used on the brace and seat supports and the legs were rebated and glued into the seat.

The spotted gum was very hard to cut and shape, particularly the shaping of the legs.

The timber appearance came up well with the Anchor Lacquer satin finish.

## Gary Healy made chess pieces

In last month's edition we reported on Gary Healy making a chess board for his grandchildren, now he has completed that project, making a set of chess pieces. Here's Gary's report on making the chess pieces:



"The chess pieces were turned from coachwood (I think) and iron bark (an old roof beam).

The turning of the iron bark was difficult, but when I slowed the lathe speed down better results followed the edge on the tools lasted longer.

The knights (horses) was done by turning a cylinder and making a jig to mount the piece horizontal to cut the horse shape on the bandsaw and finished with the Dremel.

The pieces were finished with Anchor Lacquer with felt glued on the bases.

The turning of the pieces was a good way to hone your turning skills."

## Gary Healy's racers



bit and the head turned in the lathe.

The wheels were cut on the laser as well as the logo on the rear of the car. Finish, natural.

Gary reports: These were turned from pieces of round stock from the workshop.

They were turned parallel for 40mm and tapered over the rest of the length.

I made jigs to trim the underside and the sides in the bandsaw, finishing the nose on the sander. The cockpit was drilled with a Forstner

# SHOW & TELL

## A master craftsman's jewellery box



This box is made from second hand Oregon from a Rossmark Builders second storey extension two doors up the road from my home.

The builder's waste bin in the street was full of timber from the old rafters, ceiling joists, etc. Thus, I raided the bin successfully.

I cut and dressed it to 16mm and book matched it to make the panels with the sides and top mitred in. The tray has egg crate divisions for rings and smaller items with space underneath for necklaces or such.

A few corner splines and plugs were cut from Murray River Red Gum as a bit of decoration.

The box is lined with suede pig skin. The lid has a piece of acrylic silver mirror inside. The handle is polished brass. All sprayed with Anchor 100% Gloss.

Editor here: *a top quality item superbly made by a master craftsman.*

## Roger Walsh has been box making

Roger reports: This box comes from the Library book titled Box by Box. The projects are presented for school levels, basic, intermediate, advanced.



This box is in the basic category.

I completed the box with the guidance of Ray Tregoning.

The most striking feature is in material used. The top lid uses camphor laurel and the sides are silky oak. Both materials

were supplied by Ray from very large tree trunks felled by a neighbour and cut to size on the club's large bandsaw

The top lid is in two pieces bookmatched – the practice of matching two or more pieces of veneer together so that the adjoining surfaces mirror giving the impression of an open book.

The box has used pretty much every piece of machinery in the shop. The finger joint corners



using the Gifkin jig, the table saw for most of the panels, the band saws to prepare the sides and the top, the Mirka sander for finish sanding the top, the router to rebate the top and bevel the lip, hand tools to cut out the front and the hinge, a couple of jigs to introduce splines in the box. The box is finished using Feast Watson Wipe-on poly and the interior was lined with some felt.

The box was originally intended as a document box but can be used for craft equipment.



### Can you identify this tool?

The tool in the photo below was recently gifted to the Club. Can you identify what it is used for? The tape measure is included to give you an idea of its' size. The "blades" fold into the handle. The blades have a sharp edge and a small protrusion/hook at the end of the blade.

Genuine or humorous responses are acceptable. All responses to the Editor.



### Our Brag Wall—now installed in The Gallery

Members Graham Ethell and Ray Tregoning were recently seen in The Gallery with various tools in hand installing some of the many certificates that the Club has received over the years. The good aspect is that there is a great deal more wall that can be used for future certificates.

Well done Graham and Ray (and anyone else involved in the project).



# Coming Up!

## Club Calendar

July 2023							7
S	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa	
						1	
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	
30	31						

August 2023							8
S	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa	
		1	2	3	4	5	
6	BH	8	9	10	11	12	
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	
27	28	29	30	31			

### Legend:

	Committee meeting 12.30 pm
	Club Days—members own projects
	Toy Making—No own projects
	Club Day and Woodcarvers evening
	MaxiDays
	First Saturday is Woodcarvers use of the Workshop

## Welcome to our new members

Please join me in welcoming the following new members to our wonderful club. We look forward to working with you.

- #386 Logan Kurtz
- #387 Max Abeleven
- #388 Ben Janssen
- #389 Nev Filby

Both Logan and Nev are already active in the workshop as noted by your editor.

## NOTICE BOARD

# SAFETY

**SAFETY FIRST: Members are asked on all club days to bring along and use their personal safety gear. ie. hearing protection, dust mask, eye protection, ensure they are wearing good sturdy protective footwear and no loose fitting clothes.**

### Librarian's Report

Roger Walsh reports: *We have received the August 2023 Issue 304 of our subscription to Fine WoodWorking. Take a look at the 'tools and materials' section . An interesting explanation on 'the invaluable cabinet scraper. A very detailed story on 'Building Garden Gates'. Increase your knowledge with 'Dangerous Chemistry: Wood to Be Wary of'. A couple of good reads on 'Treat Yourself to a Bath Tray', ' Pretty Lidded Boxes on the Lathe' and useful story on the 'Uzukuri finish'. The magazine is in the gallery library now.*

*Happy Woodworking Roger Walsh Club Librarian.*

### GyMEA Village Fair—revised date

The GyMEA Village Fair, 40th edition, will be held one week later than usual. This year it's on **Sunday 5 November, from 9am to 4pm**. The Club has requested a double sized stall. More details about the need for volunteers will appear in a future edition of *Sawdust & Shavings*.

Members have you paid your annual subscription? Your subscription is now due.

### Find us on FaceBook

In FaceBook search for Shire Woodworking Club

### Raffle winners

Raffle prize winners for last MaxiDay were:

1. David Edwards
2. Ian Rudd
3. Mike Green
4. Gary Healy

There is a special prize for the next raffle; a lifetime supply of rubber bands.

### Members with Birthdays in July

Day	Member
1	Douglas O'Hara
11	Rodney Mallinson
14	Ron Cameron
15	Karianne LaFrance
16	Greg Rose
21	Peter Toby
22	Perry Woodlands
25	Malcolm Armstrong
31	Bruce Dowdell

Hope every one of you have a wonderful birthday and lots more of them.



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