Shire Woodworking Club

SAWDUST & SHAVINGS

July 2026

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

Workshop: 02 9145 0308 Mob 0490 861 606 Membership: 0414 538 475
Editor: 0408 240 514 Website : https://shirewoodworking.com.au

July 2026

NEWSLETTER

Visitors from Sydeny Children's Hospital - Child Life Therapy Week 2026 (*page 7*)



Maxi Day 11 July 2026

8:45	Open Lilli Pilli Workshop
9:00	Monthly Meeting
9:30	Ian's Videos
10:00	Morning Tea
10:15	Sue Cunningham "Community 65"
10:30	Guest Speaker - Jennifer Gowen - Afghanistan
11:15	Show and Tell
12:15	Lunch
1:15	Raffle
2:00	Close

Guest Speaker - Jennifer Gowen 11 July 2026

- **Local artist from Caringbah with over 50 years in the arts.**
- **In 2011, she volunteered to set up the first exhibition of Australian art in Afghanistan, featuring 50 artworks by prominent Australian artists, opened by an Australian Embassy representative.**
- **Afghanistan, a country with no tourism for 30 years due to Taliban rule, was her host country.**
- **Stayed with Prof. Rahraw Omarzad's family in Kabul and collaborated with young Afghan female artists at the Center for Contemporary Arts Afghanistan.**

The experience was life-changing for Jennifer and remains unforgettable.

Future Guest Speakers

8th Aug - Adam Schreiber - Manager Security Long Bay Jail

12th Sept - Plank Comp Results

10th Oct - Don Parker - Steam Boats

If you would like to receive this newsletter or have an article / idea for the newsletter, please contact the editor via email on **theshirewoodworkingclub@gmail.com**.

Find Us On Facebook .. Search for "Shire Woodworking Club"

Show & Tell



Michael Peebles TOY TRUCKS FOR CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL



The idea came from my desire to contribute to the toys that the Club makes for the kids and to make something simple. The truck I'm holding is a scaled down and modified version, approximately one tenth, of this bigger one here on the table that I made quite a few years ago for one of my grandsons.

The truck is made up of seven blocks of wood glued together, plus two axles and four wheels. The timber used is two colours, a lighter one for the base and back infill, with a darker colour for all the other pieces. In all, I've built twelve, with most work being done in my workshop at home.

The timber was obtained from a number of different sources, such as offcuts in the waste bins in the workshop, some that I had at home and small pieces in the workshop's timber storage.

Like all projects, the first truck that I built failed to pass quality control, but it taught me a few things, other than wheel making, for subsequent builds.

The first set of wheels were cut with a hole saw and bench drill press from an offcut piece of Merbau decking I had at home. The second set of wheels were also cut that way but when done I discovered that I had used a thinner piece of timber by about 2 mm. Now I had 48 wheels with two different thicknesses, so I had to sort them into their two sizes to make sure that each truck had a matching set of 4.

The light coloured round pieces in the left hand rear compartment were cut with a plug cutter and fitted without glue. Any protruding bits were cut off with a Japanese saw and then sanded.. I'm not sure what they are supposed to be but I'm sure a child's imagination will come up with something people like us would never have thought of.

I want to acknowledge and thank Maurice Smith and Ian Rudd for their encouragement and Ian's advice on a few things, especially about what finish to use. I had tried bees wax and clear penetrating oil but these made the end grains look black. Ian suggested a satin finish clear spray, so we tried this but it too had the same result as the beeswax and penetrating oil.

The font of all knowledge and things men don't think about then intervened. She said that if the kids liked painting their toys, it would be best not to have a finishing coat and leave the surfaces raw. Great advice. So this is what I did.

Thanks for the opportunity for show and tell.

Neil Matthews

WOODEN LASER PORTRAIT

My wife, Pat recently turned 90, and I realised that we don't have a portrait of her. I decided that a wooden laser portrait might work. With the help from Alan Ritchie, a 20year-old photo and a panel of Queensland Maple, finished with oil, this is the result.

This is a simple, unique, and inexpensive project that other members could use for gifts.
Good luck!





RED CEDAR THREE-LEGGED SIDE TABLE

David Johnson



I was given a slice of natural-edged red cedar 650mm long x 500mm wide and ranged in thickness from 75mm to 50mm at the Woodturners. The piece was too wide to go through the thicknesser so I decided to machine it parallel under the overhead Makita router assembly. As usual, I should have stopped machining sooner as I was getting a lot of tear-out due to the soft and open grain of the red cedar in each of the different directions when going across, doing the machining passes.

This meant I still had to do a lot of sanding with the drum sander then the Mirka sander. Finished thickness is 40mm. The three legs were supplied by the Cubby House Woodturners. I used a large saucepan lid to achieve an acceptable inside circumference of the three legs. Both surfaces are finished with Gilly's Hard Wax. The table will go back to the Cubby House for sale at their stall at Hazelhurst in October.

Ian Rudd

INLAY IMAGE IN CUTTING BOARD

Using the Norglass Resin these boards have been an experiment to determine the best technique to successfully create an inlay image in a cutting board. Some of the earlier attempts resulted in results where the resin bled into the grain of certain timbers, however later trials where the engraved board was thoroughly sealed with a varnish before pouring the resin resulted in a very crisp image when completed.

I found that best results came when the resin was given at least two days to cure before final sanding. This technique using coloured resin offers great potential to decorate any laser engraved image.





Ray Tregoning

Donation of Sideboard and Hutch

The sideboard and hutch (not pictured) were constructed using hand cut dovetails with animal glue and diamond head nails. All the timber was Australian Red Cedar including the drawer fronts, sides, backs and bottoms. The unit's back was 12mm or ½" thick cut from one wide board. I think these units would have been made in the late 1800's with animal hide glue, diamond head handmade nails, slotted screws and hand cut chisel pocket screws.



Jewellery box for my granddaughter, Alana

As I pulled these units apart there was a kick rail which had beautiful grain, but it was full of holes they had used from old style pocket screws cut in by hand with a chisel. Because of all these holes I had to line the inside of the box with Mountain Ash veneer.
The lid has a panel of King Billy Pine engraved on the laser by Ian Rudd and the inlay "Alana" cut from a piece of 4mm thick Australian Red Cedar.
The tray is made from Huon Pine with Red Cedar splines and highlights, and egg crate drop in divisions if needed.
This box is coated with Anchor 100% Gloss and lined with pig skin splits suede from Birdsall Leather.

TOYS TO LILLI PILLI SCHOOL

Further to our explanation in the June Newsletter, your committee has had discussions with Lilli Pilli school to agree a list of toys that we can make for them. At a meeting on the 1st July we agreed a list of toys that fulfill the schools needs for the kindergarten class as the first stage. This would be followed up over time with similar dialogue for other classes through to year 6.

It is important to note some teaching outcomes that the school has explained when selecting a toy that we could use when making toys for the school, ie use or knowledge of colours, arranging or assembling several pieces, dexterity, picking up small pieces, sharing with friends , interactivity.

We stress this initiative with the school should be considered as complimentary to our existing toy making activities that we have with the Children's Hospital and Family Co as well as the individual members' toy making activities.

Refer list below for a list of the toys agreed with the school along with names of members that could take responsibility for completion of each toy group. We will provide detailed pictures to members in a separate document. All questions and offers to help should go to Gary, Alan, Malcolm and / or myself.

- A cut out of farm animals to go with the farmhouse we gave to them earlier. They need 2-3 sets. Gary Healey to complete.
- 2 sets of hammer and pegs. Gary Healey has volunteered. Other members would be welcome.
- 2 sets of gear puzzle. See sample available in the gallery. Ian Rudd to complete.
- 2 sets of balancing people. Axel has already produced some idea plus school has sent pictures with following link https://myhappyhelpers.com.au/products/natural-balancing-people. Gary has volunteered but other members would be welcome.
- 2 sets of Montessori throw rings.https://myhappyhelpers.com.au/products/Montessori-rings-activity. Looking for a member to take this task.
- 2 400x300x100 mm boxes with partitions to make 4 spaces. Alan has finished these.
- 6 sets of Tangram puzzles. Gary has started but more help welcome.
- Multi-size wooden block sets, looking for a member to take this task. Neil has completed some but more would be welcome.

President's Report July 2026



A warm welcome to our new club members.

Early in June we had a sales stall at Bunnings which was a success. Thanks to the club members who have supplied great sales items and the members who manned the stall.

Late June we received a lovely certificate and card from the staff of the Randwick Children's Hospital thanking the Club and its members for the support we have given the hospital. A copy is in the newsletter. A huge thank you to all the club members who have contributed to the large array of sale items in the gallery.

During June we had another couple of incidents with both Saw-stop machines with the cartridge being set off, unknown causes at this stage. No injuries reported. Please use caution when using the machine and if you have concerns about your process don't be frightened to ask for help. This goes for all machines. Member safety is everyone's responsibility.

The closing date for the plank competition is approaching, good luck to all participants.

Reminders:
· If in doubt ask
· Please switch off the machine and clean it down when finished your work
· Safety starts with you.

Gary Healey
President

WHATSAPP

Recently we introduced WhatsApp as an additional means of communicating between members, e.g., if you want to know who is coming on a given day or if you have a question you want to share with members of the "Shire Woodwork Club."

We have invited most members who regularly attend, but if you want to be included, contact the Editor.

It is easy and quick.



GETTING TO KNOW US

– RAY TREGONING



I was born at Rockdale, NSW in 1950.

I have been married to Gayle since 1980. We have 2 daughters, Lee and Robyn, and proud grandparents to Lee's daughter Alana.

We lived in Como from 1982 to 2024, did extreme renovations to the property, which was purchased from Gayle's grandmother, who bought it in 1960.

My primary education was gained at Arncliffe Public School and secondary school education at Kogarah High School. I continued my tertiary studies at TAFE colleges at Ultimo, St George and Gymea.

I hold Trade certificates in Carpentry & Joinery (as a mature student), Wood Machining, Wood Turning, Tool & Cutter Room, Explosive Power Tools, Saw Doctors, Wood Technology, Motor Maintenance, and MIG Welding and TIG & Thermal Cutting, Sub-Contractor Carpenter Licence.

Employers have been CRO (Ogden) Furniture, J E Thorpe's Wood Turners, H Trevail & Son – coffin manufacturers, Timalco Glass Structures, Cruising Yacht Club, Mason Duflex, Rev Add Display & Signs, Screenwood Architectural timber panels and screens and Baker & Houghton Antiques.

I have never been employed as a full time "Carpenter" however the skills learned in my various Trades have been transferable to other industries and were put to good use during the rebuilding of our house. Timber is featured with blackbutt floors, recycled Oregon skirtings and architraves, and cathedral ceiling in the rear extension. Most of our furnishings are built into the structure – kitchen (obviously), bar, office furniture, window seat, storage. I have always tinkered with wood, spending many of my early days building and maintaining Fireball sailing skiffs. Prior to marriage I spent summer weekends sailing Fireballs on Pittwater (traveling to and from Rockdale).

I sailed in several Australian and NSW Championships and held the role of measurer at a World Championship event in Adelaide where I met Prince Phillip. I also occasionally crewed on deepwater yachts.

I had an extensive workshop at my Como home but have moved to our new home in Woolooware Shores retirement Village which has its own workshop. The committee accepted some of my equipment, some went to my niece and my thicknesser to my GP. The workshop is open from 7am-7pm 7 days per week on your own if you are a member. In addition to doing my own projects I often do repairs for residents' memorabilia items, if possible, which keeps me going most of the time, requesting a donation to our workshop on a volunteer basis for consumables.

I have made many friendships some great mates at the Club that I really didn't have since my sailing days. I enjoy attending on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Saturdays, and attending days like Gymea Village Fair, Bunnings BBQ's, Woolooware Shores Market Days and Cook Community Classic.

Since joining the club in July 2015 I have made many Santa sleighs (in early times cut out by bandsaw, now using the flat bed laser), jewellery boxes, cutting boards, pens and pen boxes, children's stool kits, 2 x Adirondack Chairs, 2 x 1948 Woody Wagon models. I completed a long-term goal of making our extension dining table from 2 slabs of Murray River Red Gum with Blackbutt features and 10 chairs in Blackbutt and leather.

Happy woodworking to all.

VISITORS FROM SCH

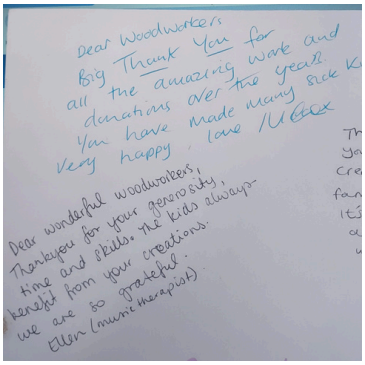
On Thursday 18 June the Club hosted 2 visitors, Neisha from Sydney Children's Hospital. She lives in Miranda, accompanied by her mother who is visiting from Auckland.

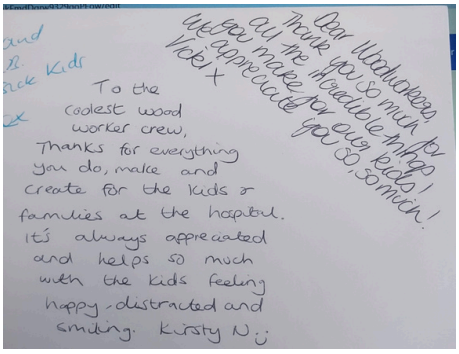
They delivered a large thank you card and 2 boxes of chocolates. As of preparing this article the chocolates had not been opened, however by the time that you read this article I will be very surprised if there's any chocolates left.

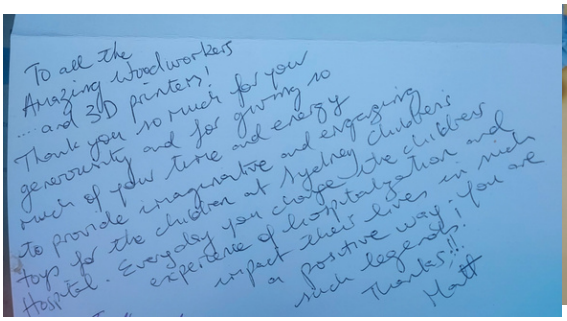
Neisha is one of the therapists at the Hospital and we know her well. She had never seen our workshop and Gallery so was given the tour, her mum was equally impressed and purchased a small cutting board from the Gallery.

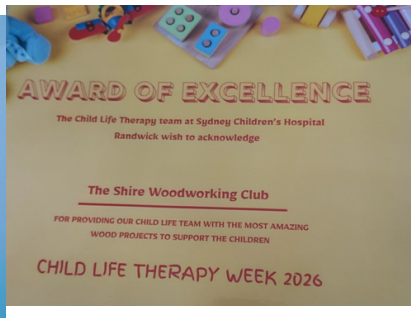
We enjoyed a long chat with both of our visitors.

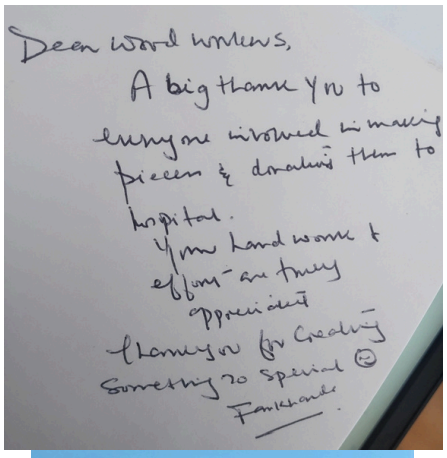


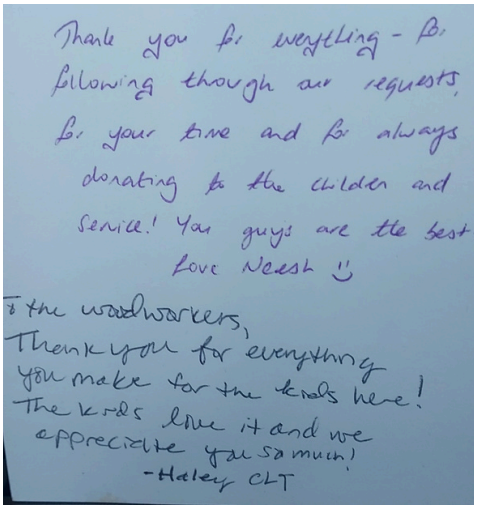


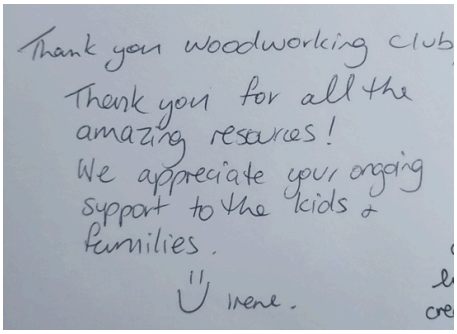


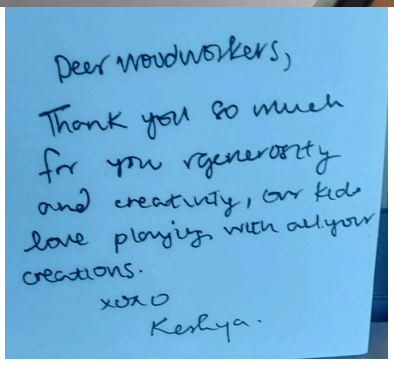


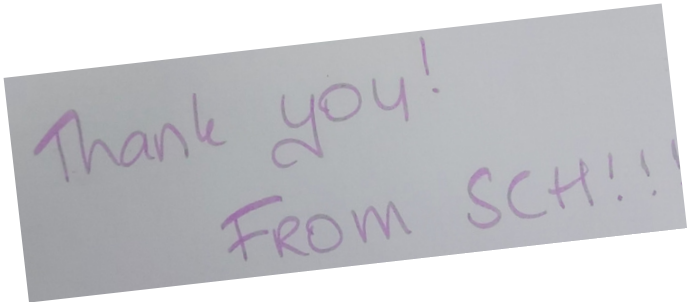














To Savour The Flavour

July Maxiday Nosebag

Potato and pumpkin soup with croutons and sour cream and Richard's dinner rolls

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TOY MAKING DAY 25 JUNE 2026

We had a great attendace of members at our June Toy Making Day -



















Guest Speaker - June - Brent Collier



Brent graduated from the University of Wollongong in 2001 with a degree in Exercise Science and Clinical Rehabilitation. Brent is the Director of Peak Health, one of Sydney's leading exercise physiology and allied health practices.

With more than 20 years' experience, Brent has consulted alongside leading specialists in sports medicine, orthopaedics, rheumatology, immunology, oncology and allied health.

Brent's greatest passion is supporting patients with complex and chronic conditions. He specialises in cancer care, exercise oncology, chronic fatigue syndrome/ME, chronic pain and complex musculoskeletal injury rehabilitation.

Brent was recently recognised for his clinical work, receiving the ESSA Fellows Award for "Inspirational Leadership in the Profession". He has also received numerous awards from Cancer Council NSW for his work through his charity, Short Circuit Cancer, as well as his involvement in Relay for Life and the Enrich Programs, which have provided significant benefits for cancer survivors.

In addition to his private practice, Brent has lectured at several universities, presented keynote sessions at industry conferences, and delivered corporate injury rehabilitation and prevention programs, including functional capacity evaluations, manual handling training and corporate health initiatives.

Brent talked about workouts and that they don't need to take an hour or be extremely strenuous to be effective. He encourages men to break up their physical activity throughout the day. He promotes a realistic approach and advocates for staying connected and active with other parents of social groups to improve physical and mental well-being.

Brent uses his own experience of surviving a brain tumour to help men and individuals with chronic illnesses and manage treatment to improve quality of life. Peak Health was established from his personal experience needing to learn more about how to manage health crisis and how to return to a "normal life". He sees his experience as a gift – an ability to connect with his patients, an insight into how patients are feeling and what they can expect from their treatments and understanding in why they can feel lost or unsupported.

As an accredited exercise physiologist (AEP) he is able to register with Medicare Australia, the Department of Veterans' Affairs and WorkCover as well as recognised by most private health insurers.

WATCHWORDS FOR JULY

Your perspective is unique,
It's important and it counts

Notice board

Safety Notice

Safety is the responsibility of every member of the club

Birthdays in July

1st July Doug O'Hara
14th July Ron Cameron
16th July Greg Rose
16th July Michele Rose
18th July Greg Barrell
21st July Peter Toby
25th July Malcolm Armstrong
26th July Ray Malet
27th July Ross Turley
31st July Warren Monaghan

New Members-



Lindsay Mitchell
Leanne Bowie
Heather Bowie

Welcome to all members past and present

Buy Swap Sell

If you have tools and equipment that you no longer want, we can advertise them in the newsleter. Just drop me a line (copy in Maurice Smith) and we will try to sell them.



Pedestal drill in the workshop that is surplus to our requirements but available to the best offer. Contact Maurice.

Members

- Annual Subs are due now - $50
- No cups allowed in workshop, please clean and return to Gallery.

Raffle winners June

1st - Axel Tennie
2nd - Ray de Marco
3rd - Graham Ethell
4th - George Lycakis

"Feel Good" Happy Snaps





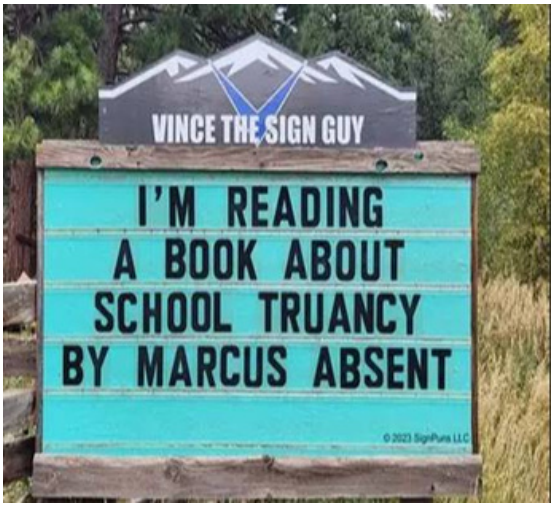


If you have any "feel good happy snaps" send them to the editor

Comedy corner

Shire Woodworking Club



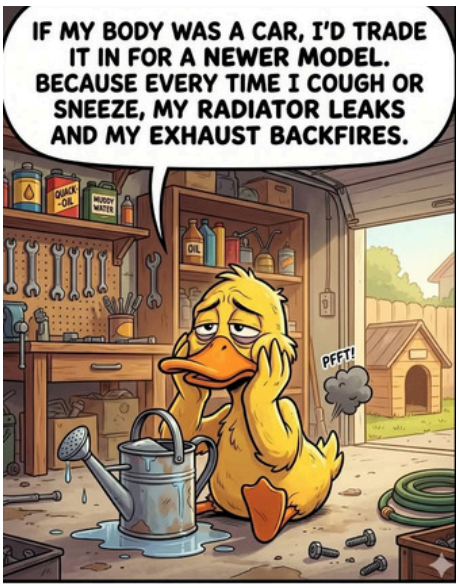






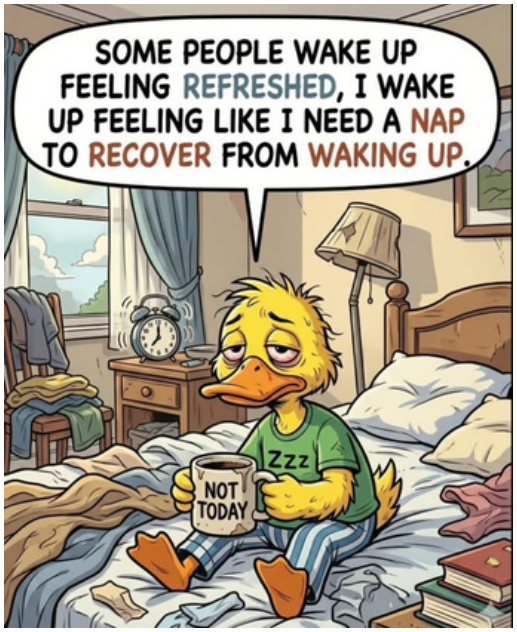












Shire woodworking club 2026 calendar

January 2026 (1)

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

February 2026 (2)

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

March 2026 (3)

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				

April 2026 (4)

S	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
			1	2	PH	PH
PH	PH	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	PH
26	27	28	29	30		

May 2026 (5)

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						

June 2026 (6)

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

July 2026 (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 2026 (8)

S	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
						1
2	BH	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					

September 2026 (9)

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			

October 2026 (10)

S	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
				1	2	3
4	PH	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

November 2026 (11)

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					

December 2026 (12)

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	PH	PH
27	PH	29	30	31		

LEGEND:

- Club Days - Every Tuesday to Thursday + Saturday (**except 1st Saturday-** see note below)
- Committee Meeting - Tuesday, prior to 2nd Saturday. Also own projects catered for 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 2026 is Saturday 19th December. Resume Tuesday 5th January 2027
Note: There must be a minimum of 3 members present on any day. No exceptions.

Note: Wood carvers attend 1st Saturday + 3rd Wednesday (pm)

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 and Jan 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	