Shire Woodworking Club

SAWDUST & SHAVINGS

April 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

April 2026

NEWSLETTER

A delivery was made to the **Randwick Childrens' Hospital** on 26 March. Many toys prepared by our club members. A very special day.









Maxi Day 11 April 2026

8:45	Open Lilli Pilli Workshop
9:00	Monthly Meeting
9:30	Ian's Videos
10:00	Morning Tea
10:30	Guest Speaker - Bob Kearney "Fishing in the Good Old Days"
11:15	Show and Tell
12:15	Lunch
1:15	Raffle
2:00	Close

Future Events

Plank Competition



Names have been received for entries with judging scheduled for next Sept. We now have plenty of time to complete something special. Good luck!

Future Guest Speakers

11th April Bob Kearney – "Fishing in the Good Old Days"

9th May Michelle Fairweather CEO (Interim) Family Co

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



JUICE GROOVE JIG

Alan Ritchie



The juice groove jig cuts a groove in a rectangular cutting board with minimum width of 200 mm and maximum length of 580 mm. The groove is cut about 25 mm in from the outside edge of the cutting board. To use the jig, the outer frame is assembled but the four nuts are not tightened. The cutting board is placed inside the jig and four spacers are placed around the outside of the board and inside the jig. The jig knobs are then tightened around the spacers and cutting board, ensuring the jig sides are all at right angles. The jig is then clamped to a work bench. The large circular template base is attached to the Makita trimmer router, and the 12.7 mm diameter ball nose bit is tightened in the Makita router's collet. The router is adjusted so the bit is about 3 mm below the circular template base. The router is turned on and carefully lowered onto the cutting board while ensuring the router base is touching the inside of the jig.

The router is then moved in a clockwise direction keeping the router base touching the jig. When you have completed the full lap of the jig, you lift the router and turn it off. If you want the groove to be deeper lower the ball nose bit to the required depth and repeat the cut around the cutting board. A final sanding will finish the groove.

ELEGANT BEAUTY & GOLF PENS

Barry Gardner



Have not had the opportunity to get down to the Club for some considerable time nor have been able to even get to my workshop. A month or so before Christmas one of Dorothy's carers had a 11-year-old daughter that had just been approved to move from using a pencil to using a pen. In consequence I offered to make her and her elder sister a "pink" acrylic pen. I failed miserably to achieve this task by Christmas. I can now say I have completed the task (see photo) and they are ready for delivery only over 4 months late.

The pen kit selected for these pens is one from Timberbits "Elegant Beauty". It has an Australian motive including an embossed southern cross on the pen top. It is not the cheapest kit around but is of very high quality, uses a Parker style refill and an easy way to replace the refill. The acrylic was turned down to the appropriate bushings and sanded starting at 180 grit finishing at 12,000 wet and dry grit.

The other Elegant Beauty pen is a wood insert in hoop pine with the thought that using this whitish wood we may be able to engrave or decal a person's name on it. The other two pens are "Golf Pens" I made some 18 months or so ago for the Club to sell and have only just got around to delivering them.

CHRISTMAS SERVING BOARD — Tony Cauchi



Using 12mm thick offcuts from Bunnings I put this together in the last two workshop opening days prior to Christmas. I sketched, glued and cut out the design on the bansaw after adding 2 x 5 mm wide strips of merbau for contrast through the centre.

After an all over fine sanding the project was finished with 2 coats of kitchen grade oil bringing out the contrasting colours in the timber.

the tree proved to be a greaat talking point and a well liked inclusion on our festive table.

I have since been requested to make 2 more of my two daughters.

PS The project turned out to be nice and light to use and well liked, especially by the ladies.

MALEE BURL TURNED BOWL — David Johnson



The wood is Malee Burl - (Eucalyptus Dumosa Brown) and it was very dry. The original shape was like a flat sided tear drop, with bark on the curved side. It was quite out of balance and too large to turn in the lathe, so I cut some of the larger heavier side off to try and rebalance then mounted on a faceplate. A couple of pieces of bark came out while doing the final scraping of the outside which governed the finished shape and the bowl had to end up being very thick walled. Turned the inside of the burl holding it in a chuck. I used 50/50 Shellac and methylated spirits on the outside because of the possible build-up of wax finishers in the bark crevices and finished with EEE - Ultra Shine then Shella wax Cream from UBeaut Polishes which is food safe after drying, as stated on their website.

Rectangular Serving Platter

Most of the strips are left over pieces from various peoples off cuts before they made it to the scrap bins.

The red Rose wood outer side edges are from my son-in-law's mother's table outer curved edge. I cut and sanded the strips to size at the club, orientated them to hide most of the faults and glued the strips together. I did 3 separate glueing sessions at home, then sanded and shaped the board at the club. Took it home and using the bee's wax and food-safe mineral oil mixture to finish the job.

NEEDLE CASE DESIGNS — Ian Rudd





Ian continues to develop his designs that are proving very popular. His last design included a small pair of scissors with additional space to house needles.



Graham Ethell



DOLLS' CRADLES AND BEDS AND BEACH BUGGIES



Over the last couple of months, at the "suggestion" of my wife, I have been finishing a number of UFOs that have been lying around at home. So I have now finished the following for the Gallery. All have been good sellers in the past:

3 **dolls' cradles** and 5 dolls' beds, all painted. The Club has been making beds and cradles to this design for over 20 years.

2 **laser beach buggies**. These are from 6mm ply, and I've found this thickness gives the best result.

3 **saloon type cars**. I saw these models in a woodcraft shop in the Atherton Tablelands some years ago. The lady was happy for me to take a photo as she didn't think we would pose a competitive threat to her business! These are made from solid timber and are quite heavy. The combination of the weight and very small wheels means they run really fast on a hard surface. Not so fast on a carpet as they are quite low slung. All are finished with a few coats of Anchor gloss.

CHEESE BOARDS SERVING PADDLE

Gary Healey



This board is for my daughters in-law who are visiting from England and wanted a reminder from Aus.

The boards are made from some donated timber, some sort of gum, maybe spotted gum. The timber is very old and come from a demolished house or other structure, the timber beam was about 350 wide and 100mm thick with a lot of age cracks and some nail holes. I managed to cut some thin strips from it, to make it light to carry back to England. I copied a map pf Australia from Alan's designs and deleted some place names for clarity and lasered it onto the lower end of the board. The coating is "Kunos" Natural Oil Searer from Livos. Three coates, it is rather slow drying, I was happy with the results.

The second board, rectangular is made from scraps from my shed, hardwood stringers and I think Tassie Oak, not sure, it is rather soft and marks easy. It is coated with mineral oil and bees wax.

President's report April 2026



A warm welcome to our new club members.

In March we made a delivery of over 300 wooden toys, some of Ian's 3D printed items and crocheted rugs (made by Dave's wife and friends) to the Randwick Children's Hospital, all items were gratefully received. We were given a tour of the new Captain Starlight area in the new wing of the hospital which was very impressive. Thanks to all that have contributed. The staff and helpers do a wonderful job caring for these children.

The club had two sales events last month, Woolooware Shores and Bunnings Easter family event, the sales went well along with our Gallery sales, Alan has details on that.

Roger and Bob are busy building on Maurice's gallery layout by attaching casters to a couple of "sales tables" to make it easier to arrange space for the Maxi-days.

There is a bit of the flu around so take care of yourselves, hope to see the people struck down back on deck soon. If you don't feel well, consider others and do not come to the workshop and spread it around.

Our March Maxi-day speaker, Anthony Cordina, has left some printed handouts in the gallery on "Protect yourself online'. Feel free to take a copy for your family.

Our Maxi-day guest speaker is Bob Kearney, Fishing in the good old days.

Thanks to our Editor and assistant for this edition.

Gary Healey
President



Our Team at **Woolooware Shores** on the 20th March. Good results for our club and enjoyment for the folks at Woolooware Shores.

Thanks David for organising.

A typical day at the club - Random snaps by Axel Tennie


Malcolm Armstrong


Milgun Uzunlar





Toys Galore


Bob and Ray


Ken Pike


Maurice Smith


Ray Tregoning

To Savour Your Palate

April Menu

IRISH STEW WITH SAUSAGES





March Menu

In the interests of waste not want not .....
The catering committee decided to draw down the Bunnings BBQ residual bangers in the freezer before their use by date and turn them into an Aussie inspired Hungarian Goulash stew accompanied by Richard's crusty bread rolls for our March Maxi Lunch.

CHILDRENS' HOSPITAL DELIVERY

"Six club members travelled to **Randwick children's hospital** on Thursday 26th March; Gary Healy, Roger Walsh, Bob Quigly, Roger Dixon, Stephen Lansley, and Mal Armstrong. We delivered over 300 items to the children.

A number of photos show the variety of the toys and knitted items. We enjoyed the team's hospitality with a tasty morning tea in the adjacent Starlight room.

Regarding future deliveries, an item called an Armature stand would be very much appreciated by some of the therapy team. The children create "sculpture" art on the stands which comprise a simple structure of a disc with a dowel post in the centre with a height of about 300mm. Also, a request was made to make suitable wooden items for their "fairy" garden in the new building B which is part of the new Starlight centre such as Fairy houses, or toadstools, etc see photos of the garden.

Roger floated the Idea for supplying kits for the children to construct which was appreciated by the staff...perhaps a simple fairy house, or other items suitable for a kit. We'll work on that idea!

One of the managers, Kirsty, gathered us around to tell us of an end of life story of a young infant who had passed on, but the siblings were impacted by a wooden toy given to their sibling and kept it as a special memory.

Ian Rudd had made a wonderful selection of 3D printed toys and brightly coloured items which were received with much excitement.





Axel Tennie had made an automated toy of a bird being fed in a nest. This was given to a child we met along with his mother in the courtyard of the new building. He was shy and clung to his mother but he lit up when told he could keep the toy!









Similarly in the area of the Starlight "fairy garden", we met other children who received some of our toys...one boy knocked back a wooden toy in favour of a 3D printed (colourful) one!



As well, a special blanket was knitted for a little girl who had as a nurse Dave and Julie Edwards' grandaughter which was delivered directly to the girl's room. There were other blankets knitted by Julie which are always appreciated.

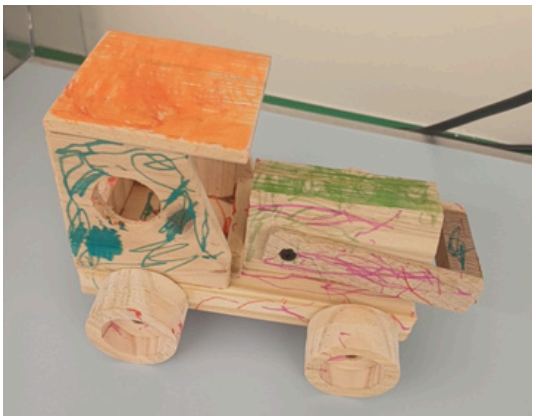
The therapy team values what our club members make and always convey their sincere appreciation for all the work done to make life that much more enjoyable for the children who receive the toys and knitted items."



WOODEN DIGGER STORY

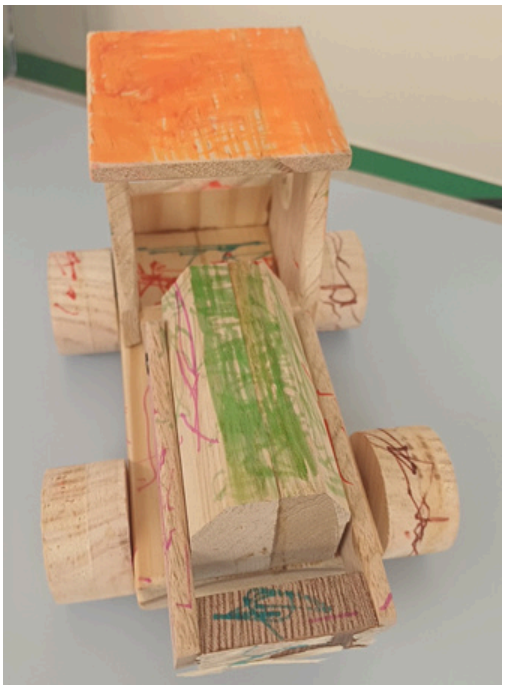
One of our Child Life Therapists from our Short Stay Ward sent me through this story to share with you all. Thank you! Matt Raph

Harry was a 6 year old I met on the surgical ward the other day. He'd trapped his finger in a car door and was awaiting surgery to have it repaired. He was fasting and waiting for several hours while on the emergency list. One of the things that kept him happy and distracted during that time was colouring in and designing a digger that I gave him. He spent over an hour decorating it with his Dad and said a big thanks to the Woodworkers for donating "such a cool toy".









Guest Speaker - March

ANTHONY CORDINA
CRIME PREVENTION AT SUTHERLAND POLICE
Police presentation on cybercrime, S/Cst Anthony Cordina

COMMON SIGNS OF A SCAM

- Amazing opportunity to make money
- Someone you don't know needs your help
- You feel pressured
- They ask for payment in unusual ways (Apple play cards)
- They ask to communicate on different platforms (Whatsapp)

WHAT TO DO IF YOU HAVE BEEN SCAMMED

- There is no shame, can happen to any of us
- Act fast, contact your bank and ask to stop any transactions
- Report the scam, Police, Scamwatch, IDCare
- Be aware of any follow up scams, offering to help you get your money back
- Get support, both financially and for your own personal well being

REPORTING CRIME

- Sutherland Police Station 95420899
- Police Assistance Line 131444
- NSW Police community portal
- Scamwatch www.scamwatch.gov.au
- Cybercrime www.acorn.gov.au
- Identity theft: ID Care - www.idcare.gov.au
- ATO scam line on 1800 008 540



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LIBERAL
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SOUND SYSTEMS BY PETER WARREN

In no time at all you'll be explaining to your friends and family how you saw these amazing loudspeakers at their world first presentation in 2026.

My mate Peter at the Shire Woodworking club took these 2 metre tall speakers and laid them on the floor. Then he rolled them up like a sleeping bag.

They were made using solid pine wood and plywood and some repurposed table tops. Then attached them to an old vintage amplifier and a wifi streamer. Playing songs off his mobile phone.

Honky Cat by Elton John was Roger's favourite.
Gary's favourite was Honky Tonk Woman by Rolling Stones. Then we heard Jessie Tailor with "Just Chillin".
Wow what a great singer. But then we heard Andrea Bocelli sing "Nessun Dorma". We were transported away to the opera Turandot by Puccini and the Principessa who couldn't sleep because of love.

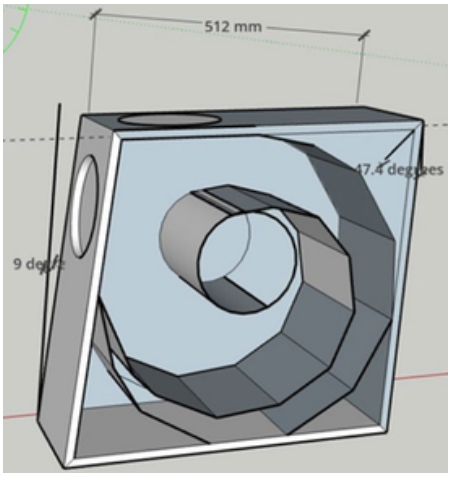
What a fantastically simple way to have mindblowing sound from a small speaker (out of a 30 year old car!!).

Peter had his friend Paul film the presentation which you can relive on Youtube. Search for "DIY Full Range Hifi Speakers" to find the video and all of Peter's speaker building shenanigans.

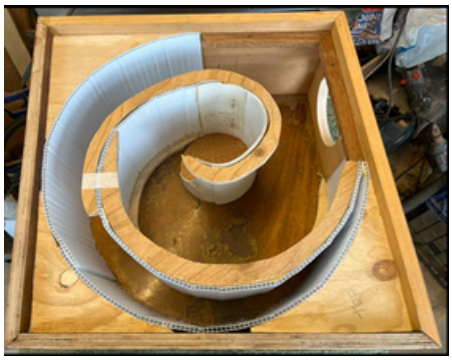
If you want to try speaker building, there will be a speaker making class if two or more of you wish to make some speakers. Just come and ask me. We'll start with something simpler. Two metre tall Voigt Pipe speaker



Two metre tall Voigt Pipe speaker



Peter's Spiral Voigt Pipe speaker



Inside the Spiral Voigt Pipe speaker



The prototype Spiral Voigt Pipe speaker

Get to know us

TIM DODDS



I was borne 11pm 11th November 1959, youngest of 3 brothers. We lived in Abbotsford for my first 13 years, and for the next 15 we lived at South Strathfield after our family purchased the Town & Country Motel. Many of you may have memories of it, as it was one of the oldest Motel's in Australia & welcomed many newlyweds on their first night. At the age of 13 I learnt every aspect of this business – waitering, housekeeping, reception, yard & later management.

It was also here that I met my wife [celebrating 43 years together].

In 1988 I was involved with a retail lighting outlet and design consultancy for 6 years in Liverpool. My wife and I (& our firstborn son) moved out to Denham Court (scenic hills area back of Liverpool). Our second son followed shortly after.

I moved on from the Lighting business in 1994 becoming Finance & Admin Manager of Harvey World Travel (Franchise) and over a 13 year career here was promoted to Chief Financial Officer and later took the company public. As my responsibilities were wide and varied, I travelled often to New Zealand and South Africa where we had 150 franchise outlets on top of 320 in Australia. In 2005 I was living in UK working on expansion there when HWT was subject to a hostile takeover – and a year later signalled the time to move on.

During this period with HWT I foresaw that Denham Court was going to be inundated with hundreds of housing projects and would lose its beauty and serenity. After looking through 43 homes my wife finally came across a property in Lilli Pilli. I walked in the door and the rest was history. It was here that our daughter arrived and is our home (now loved by all) for now 28 years.

I was involved in a number of "Company Doctor" roles, one of these led to an inital 3 month interim CEO role of Discovery Holiday Parks, which lasted for almost 2 years and an ongoing Director role of the company for 5 years. The new CEO was a close friend & this soon led to a role running the development, expansion and operations of what soon became an upmarket 430 room accommodation (mining) village – in the remote town of Onslow (1 hour drive south of Karratha WA). This was a very interesting role in a very very profitable business with main clients – Chevron; BHP; Onslow Salt. It was also very challenging for my wife who had a TAFE teacher/fashion background!!

In 2017 it was time for me to move on from Onslow as the property returned to more normal operations. At the age of 58 I decided to retire given my early start at 13.

I have enjoyed doing things with my hands, renovating/painting our homes and so on. I think my carpentry background came from my grandfather who was a cabinet maker hobbyist. He was a remarkable man, serving in both wars – being amongst the last shipment of troops out of Europe after end of WW1; and was a witness to the surrender signing ceremony of Japan after WW2.

Julie has kept me busy at SWC with various things she wants made – for her doll making charity work. I enjoy bringing detail to my projects and have used the laser to meet that end on many occasions. In particular the plank competitions having been challenging and enjoyable and included – Red (of course) Vintage Fire Engine; Green Vintage Steam train and carriage (I'm working on a second one of these in Red to be sold to raise money by SWC); and a Blue Prime Mover and trailer.

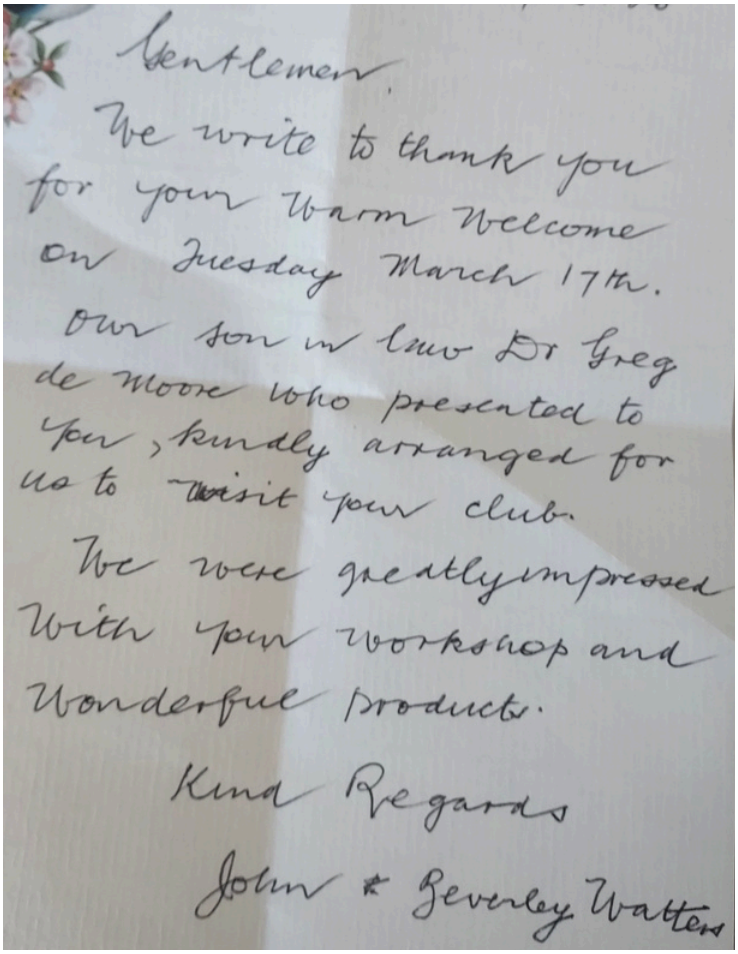
My hobbies include skiing, water skiing, sailing, holidaying, and working on my home and that of immediate family. This has included creating a self-contained flat, a Media Room/Home Cinema/ Renovating self contained unit, etc. I am a member of RMYC Port Hacking Sailing Division and act as Treasurer, Awards Night Organiser and Race photographer. We race every Wednesday Afternoon/Night primarily with a fleet comprising Cruiser/racers, and every second Sunday in Bate Bay and over summer in the local Ocean (Sydney to Wollongong).

How could I not join SWC – I live just down the road from SWC.

Visit by Greg De Moore and family

One of our guest speakers, Greg de Moore, and family, visited our club on Tue 17th March. Greg had requested a chopping board and a baby's cradle which we were happy to present on the day. The cradle prepared by Robert Leake and the chopping board by Axel Tennie. A generous donation provided by Greg.





Gentlemen.

We write to thank you for your warm welcome on Tuesday March 17th.

Our son in law Dr Greg de Moore who presented to you, kindly arranged for us to visit your club.

We were greatly impressed with your workshop and wonderful products.

Kind Regards

John & Beverley Watters





Noticeboard

Safety Notice

Safety is the responsibility of every member of the club

Birthdays in April

16 April	Sam Simmons
18 April	Scott Miller
18 April	Peter Warren
25 April	Drew Robins
25 April	Reno Sciberras

Raffle winners March

1st Gary Healey
2nd Ray Tregoning (Voucer to Woolooware Shores)
3rd Ray De Marco (Wine)
4th Ray Bywater (Bunnings Voucher)

New Members

Rakesh Shah

Buy Swap Sell

The club has received several donations and wishes to offer for sale to members. They are sold "as is", no warranty



Sunbeam Wok and Breville coffee maker



3 wheel bandsaw

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.

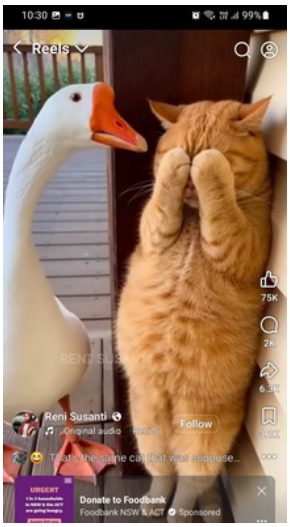
"Feel Good" Happy Snaps









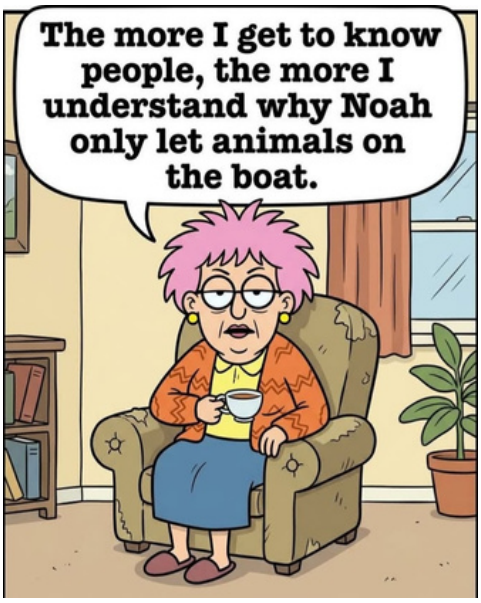


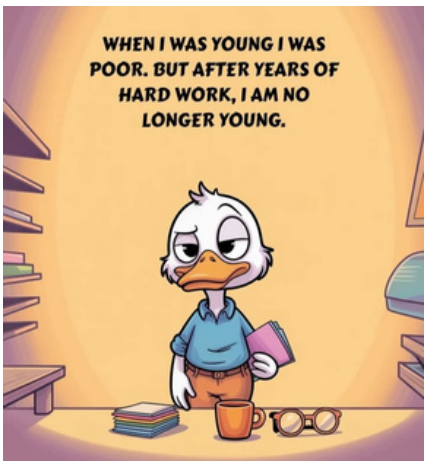
If you have any "feel good happy snaps" send them to the editor

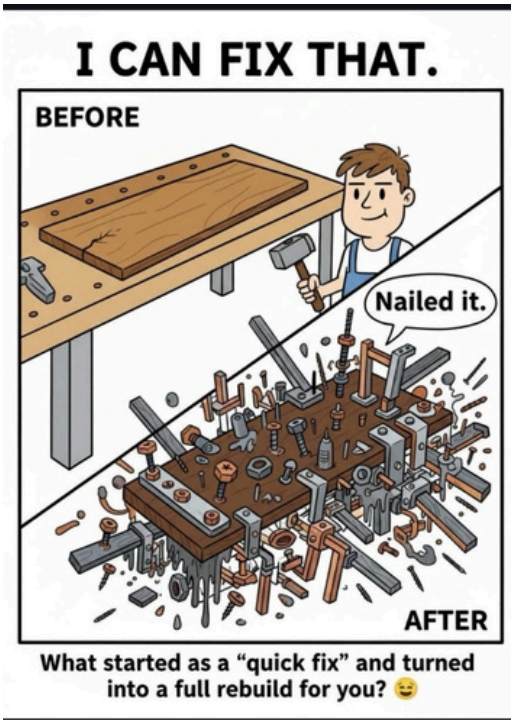
Comedy corner

Shire Woodworking Club

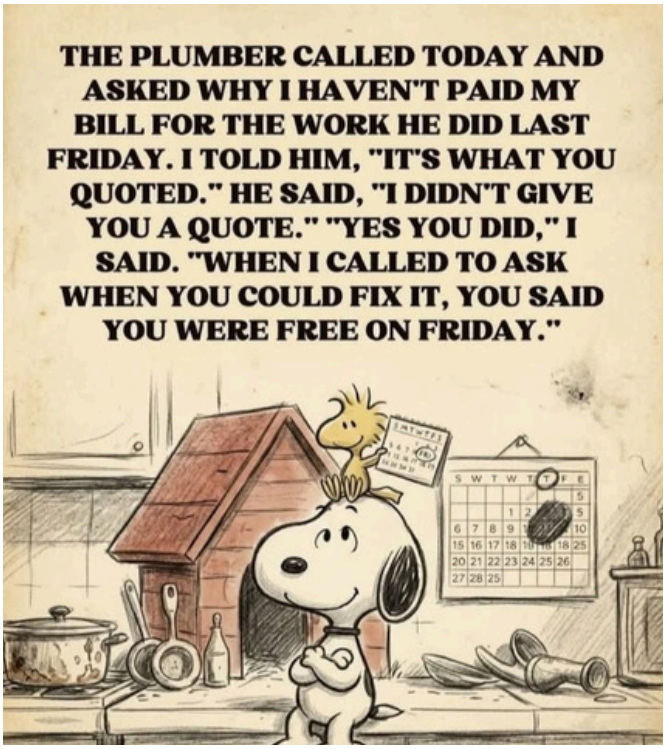


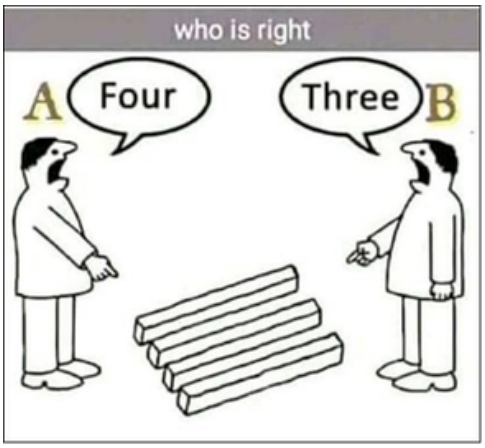












Shire woodworking club 2026 calendar

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
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15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28

March 2026						3
S	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
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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
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24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

June 2026						6
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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
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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	