Shire Woodworking Club

SAWDUST & SHAVINGS

SEPT 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

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September 2026

PLANK COMPETITION

Judging for the 2026 Plank Competition is this Saturday ***12 Sept.*** I hope we all have used the time well to produce amazing toys. Take a look at page 5 if you wish to revisit the competition rules.

We look forward to some fantastic creations.



Maxi Day 12 Sep 2026

8:45	Open Lilli Pilli Workshop
9:00	Monthly Meeting
9:30	Ian's Videos and 3D Printer Demo
10:00	Morning Tea
10:30	Plank Comp Presentations
11:00	Plank Comp Presentations
12:00	Plank Comp Judging
12:30	Lunch
1:15	Raffle
2:00	Close

Future Guest Speakers and Events

10th Oct - Don Parker - Steam Boats

14th Nov - David Edwards
- "A hodgepodge of Aviation"

12th Dec - Kevin Gowen (Club Member)
-trout fishing

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**.

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President's Report September 2026



A warm welcome to our new club members.



The closing date for the plank competition is approaching - 12th September. Good luck to all participants.

A big thankyou to our Guest Speaker - Adam Schreiber - Manager Security Long Bay Jail, an interesting insight into how "the other side of life".

A big thank you to Tony Browne for giving the club members a demonstration of his timber mill at his property in Kangaroo Valley, it was a very practical hands-on day. The Weather was kind to us. Photos in the newsletter.

The club now has a 3D printer that will compliment the toy making activities and other club members projects. The printer is located in the Gallery.

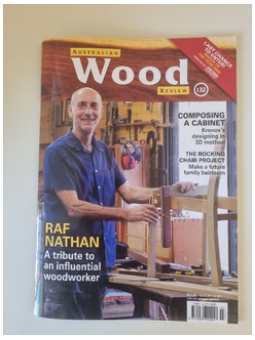


Community news, the club has received a request from Sutherland Hospital for some plaques for their "donation wall in the foyer" of the hospital. They have also requested the club to possibly supply a bench seat for one of the hallways which we are currently working on, thanks Ray T.

September will see the installation of the air conditioning system in the Gallery and a new drop saw in the workshop.
Reminders
· Safety starts with you, if in doubt ask
· Please switch off the machine and clean it down when finished your work.

Gary Healey
President

LIBRARIAN UPDATE



We have received Issue 132-September 2026 of Australian Wood Review.

The magazine is available in the Library now.



Show & Tell



Bruce Dowdell

A friend of my wife is having a birthday shortly. As this woman is an admirer of the strength and intelligence of elephants and has a very important and responsible job we decided a carved comfort elephant would be a good gift. Carved comfort animals are small palm sized wooden sculptures designed to be held in the palm or rubbed for stress relief and comfort. Once I finished carving the elephant I thought it might need somewhere to live so I carved the front wall of a house and Maurice built the rest of the structure for me. The elephant is carved from Jeluton and the house from river red gum.

CARVED COMFORT ELEPHANT



Ray Tregoning

I made two small boxes from some Cedar offcuts left over from a jewellery box Greg made. It was a shame to waste. There were nail and screw holes from the sideboard from where the timber came. I filled the holes with white plugs and made an equal pattern around the box. I lined the bottom with green pig's skin leather sprayed with my usual Anchor 100% Gloss spray.

Serving Tray
This tray started as a nicely designed board on which Ian engraved my family name to demonstrate to people at stalls that we can apply their family's name. So, with my name on the board and not many Tregoning's around, he gave it to me. I decided to make a tray with angled ends with small handles and splayed the sides out and added some Mountain Ash plugs as a feature. When the board was made it was coated with food grade oil meaning varnish was not a suitable finish, so I used Osmo Oil Satin supplied by David Edwards.

BOXES & TRAY



Peter Warren

TROLLEY WALKER

My grandson is turning 1 so I had to make a gift.
It was going to be a toy tractor and turns out we're doing a tractor themed birthday event with tractor rides involved.

Anyhow my gorgeous wife suggested a toy trolley-walker since he's on the cusp of walking so good for his physical learning.

Well straight to www.Pinterest to get ideas and dimensiions for baby walkers. A $12 skateboard from Vinnies for wheels, marine ply offcuts for the box and handle bars, Thomas the Tank laser image (thx Ian) glued on the front. Two coats of sastin varnish. Now just need some brakes !!!



Ken Brunker

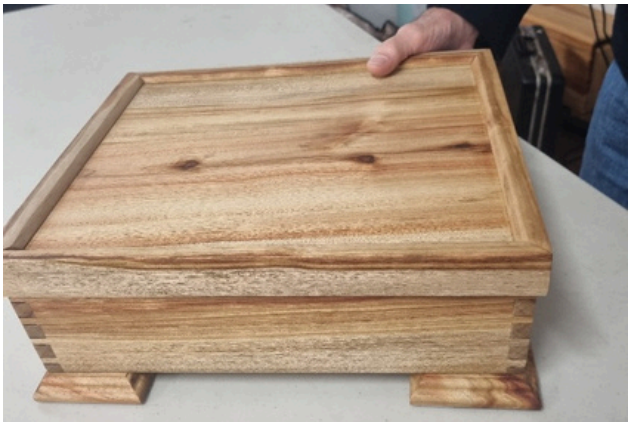
DOCUMENT BOX

The box I made for Lyn is to protect an Album of Postcards from the First World War owned by Lyn s Great Aunt Mary Jane Hampson.

The album holds postcards from relatives and friends who went to fight in WW1 also sons of friends from the Western Front Her mother gave her the Album in 1917 to hold all the post cards she was caring for.

The Album and collection has been in the Hampson family from that time.
And given to Lyn to cherish.

It holds some of the most beautiful post cards that you could imagine some are hand embroidered.
It was a pleasure to make a box from Camphor Laurel to keep it safe for future generations





TOYMAKING PLANK COMPETITION RULES FOR 2026

- The purpose of the Competition, open to all members of the Shire Woodworking Club, is for members to enhance their woodworking skills, creativity and to have fun making toys.

- The Competition is conducted in three categories. Eligible members in each Category will be published in "Sawdust and Shavings". All entrants are supplied with a plank of Radiata Pine approximately 1500mm x 290mm x 19mm or equivalent.

- There is no restriction on the number, size, type and design of the entry providing it is used to make one or more toys for the Club. It is to be made predominantly from the timber supplied. Full use of the timber supplied should, where practical, be attempted and any remaining pieces are to be returned to the Club.

- Any item submitted for judging in the competition that is not a toy, as determined by the Committee, will not be included in the judging process.

- Finished entry/s are to be made available for judging on the September Maxi Day 12 September 2026. Entries in the Competition shall become the property of the Club to sell, or to dispose of, at the Club's discretion.

- At the conclusion of the judging process a member submitting an entry may offer to purchase that entry for a nominal fee of $50.

- Any member who takes a plank and does not submit an entry will be asked to, either: (a) return the plank, or (b) reimburse the Club a nominal fee of $50.

- Members present on the judging day will be entitled to vote on the entries in categories for which they have not submitted an entry. Procedures for the judging will be determined by the Committee and advised to members on the day, however members will be asked to award marks under three criteria:

    - Is it a good creative design including the entrant's creative design input?
    - Is it well made?
    - Is it well finished?

- The winner, runner-up and third placegetter in each Category will be awarded prizes of a $50, $30 and $20 respectively Bunnings Warehouse voucher.

- Winners will progress to higher categories as follows: ·
    - The 1st and 2nd prize winners in Category C will progress to Category B in the following year's competition.
    - The 1st prize winner in Category B will progress to Category A in the following year's competition.

- In the event of a complaint, the complainer is directed to Clause 1 of these Rules.

Hospital Delivery 11/8/2026

On Tuesday 11th August seven members visited the Sydney Children's Hospital, Randwick. Ian Rudd, Roger Dixon (driver), Steve Lansley, Bob Quigley, Ray Bywater, Mal Armstrong (driver), and Greg Barrell. We enjoyed a very worthwhile visit to the Child Life Therapy team's hub on the 3rd floor. This was probably the largest delivery we have done for some time, comprising over 500 items.

Soon after arriving we were taken by Matt Ralph (Music Therapist) to the new building and were spoiled with a deluxe morning tea by Captain StarLight and his team. Matt then took us to the TV studio where each of us explained the toy we were holding. Perhaps our club has a budding choir as we were then asked by Matt to join in an old children's song..."the Wheels on the bus go...." you know the rest. Lots of fun but significantly we had contact with a couple of families and their children.

Asked by Matt what toys they would like, a young primary school aged girl chose the larger train with 2 carriages and coal tender, the other, a young teenager chose a small wood quad bike. The TV session is transmitted to children's rooms in the wards. As we left the area, we noticed the young primary school aged girl was playing with her new train and placing lego characters into the carriages...totally engrossed. Lesson for us at the club? Your toy-making efforts bring a lot of joy to the children, so keep up the good work. The staff are always so appreciative of our club's efforts in bringing such a wide variety of toys.

Particular mention goes to; Alan Hendry's wife, Margaret, for knitting a large quantity of baby bonnets and booties, David Edward's wife, Julie, for a number of crocheted blankets, and Malcolm's wife Valerie for a chequered knitted blanket. As with our previous visit, Ian's colourful 3D printed toys were a great success and super colourful!

Thanks to all those members who have spent many hours making an amazing array of wooden toys for the children." Malcolm Armstrong

Fairy Houses	11	Blankets	7	Small Cars	27	Bird Feeders	6
Boxes	12	Baby Bonnets	12	Small Trucks	7	Paddle Steamer	1
Drum	1	Rolling Pins	24	Bikes	6	+ 3D Items Below	
Owls	2	Click Sticks	15	Skate Boards	10	Dragons	10
Bangles	4	Rockets	5	Small Birds	14	Spirographs	7
Train Sets	4	Ukulele	1	Pull Along Dogs	6	Alphabet Letters	Set
Large Cars	4	Flip Top Boxes	12	Small Trains	7	Figits	15
Sculpture Stands	30	Quad Bikes	6	Front End Loaders	8	Cars	16
Trucks	3	Small Vases	7	Vintage Cars	3	Other 3D items	20
Racing Cars	23	Bulldozers	10	Helicopter	1	Assorted	Box
				Acrobats	6		





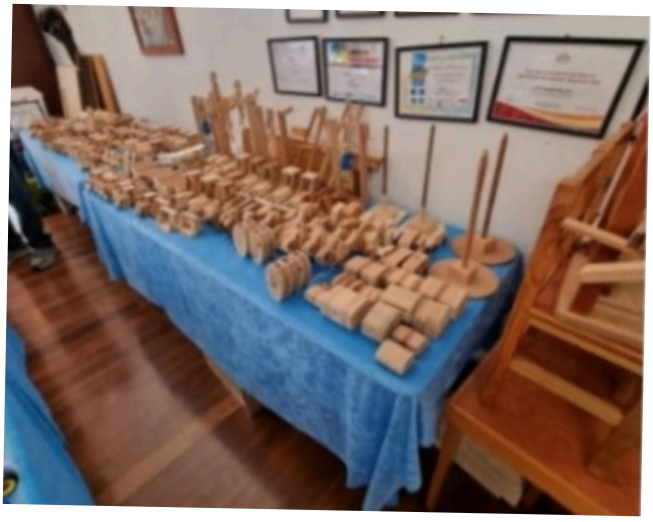
Hospital delivery











GETTING TO KNOW US

Amber Johnstone



Cronulla Point Body Boarders 1988



I was born in January 1973 and brought home to Cronulla, where I grew up near Hospital Bay Wharf close to Gunnamatta Bay. I attended Cronulla Public School until age ten, then moved with my family to Woolooware, completing primary school at Woolooware Public and later attending Woolooware High School.

Throughout high school I loved bodyboarding and would surf before and after school. I ended up getting pretty good at it and won the Australian Titles in both 1987 and 1988.

I eventually stepped back from competing during my senior years to focus on school. I was also in every sports team I could join – mostly, I admit, to spend more time playing and less time sitting still in class. It was in the woodwork rooms at Woolooware High that I first discovered how much I loved working with timber.

I am a third-generation Sutherland Shire local. My paternal great-grandparents lived in Holm Lea, Engadine, and my maternal grandparents lived in Sutherland and were active in the Salvation Army. Both my parents grew up in Cronulla, giving me deep roots in the area I still call home.

After finishing school, I studied Environmental Science with a Chemistry major at the University of Wollongong (1996). Later that same year, I moved to the United States on scholarship to continue my studies. I married my husband Matthew in 1998 and went on to complete a Master of Science in Analytical Chemistry in 2000. I worked for years in laboratory settings, and during my time in Utah I took up fly fishing in mountain streams and even learned to fly light aircraft. For fun, I completed a Bachelor of Aviation Science (2004) and briefly worked as a flight instructor before discovering I was pregnant with my first son, Ben.

We returned to Australia in 2005 and welcomed our second son, Will, in 2007. Over the years I've developed a real love of travel, visiting Hong Kong, Thailand, Vietnam, Singapore, the USA, Mexico, New Zealand, and many other places — though I still haven't explored nearly enough of Australia. While raising my boys, I ran a small business repairing smart phones and i-devices from home.

During the uncertainty of the COVID years, I decided it was time to pursue the dream I'd had since high school – learning a trade. Opportunities for women in male-dominated fields were limited in the early 1990s, but in 2020 I finally had the chance. I completed a pre-apprenticeship course and was hired by Sydney Trains as a Telecommunications Apprentice. After finishing my apprenticeship in 2024 and working as a field technician, I realised that to progress into SCADA I would need an electrical licence. I pivoted again and am now fast-tracked in Substation Distribution, working in high-voltage electrical with the goal of becoming a licensed electrician.

My sons have followed similarly hands-on paths: Ben completed his Linesman trade and is now training as a pilot in the USA, while Will is training as a surveyor and plans to fly once he has a few more years of experience behind him.

Through all of life's twists, woodworking has remained a constant joy. I look forward to spending more time at the club once work and study settle down, enjoying the camaraderie, creativity, and simple satisfaction of shaping timber into something new.

Visit to Tony Browne's "Estate" at Kangaroo Valley

From Forrest to timber at Kangaroo Valley demo day.







I am glad everyone enjoyed the day on the farm. We were able to slab up one of the Huon pine logs donated to the club and slab a larger very hard log 3.7 m long. The Band saw mill I use is Australian designed from Hardwood mills in Gosford, although similar to other imports. Mine can cut a 30"diameter log and do cuts up to 18"deep. It is effectively a band saw on its side with wheels on a rail track over a heavy bunk, 8m long with a 32 mm wide blade, 1 tooth per inch. It is powered by a petrol motor. Squaring off logs, creating beams and slabs, or cutting dimensional timber with ease. I normally use a bimetal blade which can be sharpened around 7 times. A tungsten tip blade is far better for iron bark and aged dead gum logs. Just cuts trees and pine more easily. Perfect for all types of timber, including Australian Hardwood, exotic timbers and pine.

I purchased it to cut a hardwood post and rail fence from timber that came down in the 2020 fire. The mill cost 60% less than if I purchased the timber I needed for the fence. There is also an option for a sled router to use the same track for finishing large slabs 900 mm wide .Which I don't have but may build. I have cut several small logs for members. It is easier if the log is over 1100m long making it easier to brace for cutting, let me know if you need something cut, nailfree. 🙂 Tony Browne





To Savour The Flavour

September Maxiday Nosebag

BBQ Sausages with Summer Salad

Guest Speaker - August

Adam Schreiber



We had a fantastic session with Adam Schreiber, Governor of Long Bay Corrective Services Prison.

Adam shared insights about his remarkably successful squash career, his active involvement in the Aboriginal community, and his transition into a senior position within the NSW prison system.

His squash journey was marked by notable achievements in both international and Australian competitions. Competing at the highest level, Adam won numerous awards and faced off against the elite players in the squash world. Among his many successes, he takes the most pride in his accomplishments alongside Jahangir Khan. Much of his expertise was honed at the Australian Institute of Sport in Canberra. He traveled worldwide to pursue his squash dreams, ultimately concluding his journey in Europe before returning to Australia to embark on his next career chapter in the NSW penal system.

Currently, Adam serves as a Governor in the NSW prison system, overseeing a significant portion of the organization. He provided us with a vivid portrayal of life at Long Bay Jail. While he couldn't share too many details due to confidentiality, his descriptions of daily life were quite alarming. Adam has held this position for over 15 years and aspires to continue in it for the foreseeable future.
He is also proud to have been inducted into the Australian Aboriginal Hall of Fame.
Our one-hour conversation with Adam was incredibly engaging. We presented him with a thank-you plaque and wished him all the best for the remainder of his career.



Noticeboard

Safety Notice

Safety is the responsibility of every member of the club

Birthdays in September

04 Sept Tom Croucher
07 Sept Lloyd Kirkland
12 Sept Barry Gardner
14 Sept Ken Brunker
22 Sept Ian Knight
23 Sept Glen Reeve
25 Sept Brian Harward
28 Sept Roger Dixon

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.

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.

Raffle Winners August

1st Prize Tony Browne
2nd Prize Tom Croucher
3rd Prize Peter Warren

WATCHWORDS FOR SEPTEMBER

Why is "dark" spelled with a k and not a c?
Because you can't see in the dark.

"Feel Good" Happy Snaps







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



Comedy corner

Shire Woodworking Club



It's never too late to start exercising.

That's why I'm waiting until later.









My girlfriend left a note on the fridge:

"It's not working. I can't take it anymore. I am going to my Mom's place."

I opened the fridge.
The light came on.
The beer was cold...
What the hell is she talking about?



Why do golfers wear two pairs of pants?

In case they get a hole in one.



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	