



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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July 2025



Maxi Day Guest Speakers coming up

July 12th Carbatec - Mark Thomas

August 9th Greg De Moore - Psychiatrist, Historian & Author

Sept 13th Michael Green (Club member) - Saws & Planes

I would welcome suggestions from club members to support an agenda that allows a mix of both woodworking and general presenters.

Future Events

- Fri 25 July Visit to PolAir Bankstown
- Sun 26 Oct Gymea Village Festival Main street location
- 20 November Woolooware Shores Market day

Maxi Day 12 July

8:45	Open Lilli Pilli Workshop
9:00	Monthly Meeting
9:30	lan's Videos
10:00	Morning Tea
10:30	Show & Tell/Buy Swap Sell
11.30	Carbatec - Mark Thomas
12:30	Lunch
1.30	Raffle

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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MAXIDAY SHOW AND TELL

TOY HELICOPTERS



Neil Matthews

I decided to make them push-along toys and have the rotors turn as they were pushed along. This is simple, having a wheel attached to the shaft of the rotor making contact with one of the push-along wheels. A problem here is that this wheel cannot make contact with the second push-along wheel at the same time. Since the axle is floating, I placed a small O-ring on the axle to keep the second wheel clear of the rotor wheel.

An interesting solution I found, the wheels need to be at right angles to the axles so that they don't wobble. I was using 6mm axles and my hole-saws use ¼ inch guide drill. I used some scrap timber with a right-angle edge, drilled a ¼ inch hole through with some masking tape on top. The axle was located through the hole and secured at the bottom with masking tape and the wheel glued and placed on top and centred on the axle. Result, it Worked!!

I had planned to paint the whole toy, but ran out of time & finished off with Anchor clear lacquer.

OUTDOOR BBQ TABLE



Neil Matthews

This an Outdoor BBQ Table, or what to do with surplus old fence palings. I cut 4 palings to 75mm width, then cut in half & then using a length stop cut each piece to 500mm for legs. Taper cut the legs to 30mm at the base. Find two more palings, one thinner than the other & cut to 75mm, then cut 4 pieces 400mm long. Cut slots in the centres of 400mm pieces to make 2 cross braces for the table. Take a pair of the 500mm legs and screw them to one end of the thickest cross brace with stainless countersunk screws. Do the same for the remainder legs. Slide the thinner cross brace in between the legs to create a taper between the legs which will be screwed together at the base. Screw the thinner cross brace then make up the table top. I used 4 pieces of hardwood 105mm wide, joined with biscuits then clamped & glued. I taper cut the edges on the router then screwed the table top to the legs with more stainless-steel screws. The job was finished with two coats of Tung Oil.

DUST SHOES



David Edwards

The CNC Router creates a lot of dust during the various machining processes, and to alleviate this problem it came equipped with a dust shoe (essentially a brush that surrounds the router bit) that is hooked up to the club's dust extraction system.

The brush bristles on the supplied shoe are too short when longer router bits are used, as they don't reach the work piece surface, and so there's an air gap which means loss of suction. So I built a new one from plywood, machined on the CNC of course, and a brush strip with longer bristles that I bought on line. It's attached with a couple of toggles as it's a bit heavier than the original and the magnets weren't strong enough to properly secure it.

The shoe works really well, provides really good dust extraction, and is a practical option for when machining with longer bits.

LIGHTHOUSE PEPPER MILL

Roger Walsh & Bob Quigley









I came across a story in Australian Woodsmith Issue 144 October 2018 which described in detail how to make a LIGHTHOUSE PEPPER MILL. The mill is a product of many hours work by Bob Quigley and myself with the majority of the work being completed on the lathe.

The instructions explained in the mag gave very specific instructions and dimensions. We started out complying with these instructions but very quickly came to the conclusion that we needed to get our hands on the grinding apparatus. I purchased a set of mills from Ebay/Timu and with Bob's knowledge / skills we were able to determining the specific interface requirements.

The unit has several components. The central column made from maple, the lighthouse at the top made from a mix of the maple and the wenge / dark wood and the skirt / lid made from the dark wood and the grinding mechanism fitted inside the column by drilling out a hole up the middle of the column and secured to the body of the mill at the bottom with screws and at the top through the top of threaded rod.

Specific challenges were the grinding out of the base, which had to fit both the width along with the depth to match the overall height of the mill and shaping the top of light house to get the correct angles and dimensions. The rings around the central column were completed using a 'garot' or a piece of electrical wire.

The mill was finished while in the lathe using 150 sanding paper and a 'Gilly's Cabinet Makers Wax' and eventually using Hard Burnishing Oil. Bob was happy with the Gilly's wax I thought the Burnishing better but a longer process.

Both Bob and myself were very happy with the end product. You may have seen Bob and myself working away on the lathe over several weeks. I was Bob's apprentice. I now have a good working knowledge of the operation of the lathe. It was a great collaborative job well done.

CNC ROUTER PLAQUE WITH LIGHTS

Alan Ritchie





Alan presented, another example, of the capabilities of our CNC Router. This version happens to be a plaque of the St George team with lights. Up the Dragons. We think there will be many applications for this as a gift or product for other organisations.

ARGYLE CUTTING BOARD

Ian Rudd



This board was created by cutting a series of accurate squares in Merbau and Mountain Ash. Coloured strips are the cut to suitable lengths and a number of steps are taken to glue the pieces together to create the Argyle pattern. After glueing, the board is cut to final size then with the outside edges rounded using the router the board is finally sanded and oiled.

SMALL TABLE & CHEESE BOARD TRAY

Richard Cain



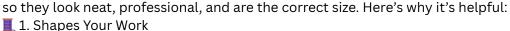
The small table was made from re-cycled power pole, cross cut joint on feet and top and top slab made from New Zealand kauri. The cheese board was made from re-cycled timber - five in all. (For my grandchildren so they have something to remember me by).

BLOCKING BOARD

Ray Tregoning



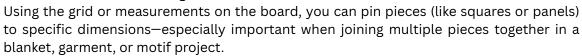
This box was made from plastic because some are available in plywood which is not as durable as some of the crocheting and knitting are damped down. This was finger-jointed cut on the laser by Ian. The top is 10mm Acrylic with 2162 x 1/8" holes to suit the stainless-steel pins. We tried cutting on the laser – it would cut but the piece would weld itself back in – so David Edwards designed a program for the CNC with a special 1/8" Acrylic cutter which took 1 hr 50 min to bore, otherwise it would be about 4 days to bore on a drill press – many thanks Dave



Blocking helps your fabric lay flat and smooth out any uneven stitches or curling edges (especially common with lace, granny squares, or stockinette stitch).

A blocking board is used in crocheting and knitting to shape and set your finished pieces

2. Ensures Accurate Sizing



3. Improves Drape and Texture

Blocking can soften the fabric, open up lacework, and enhance stitch definition, especially in natural fibers like wool or cotton.

📌 4. Helps with Assembly

If you're joining pieces (like for an Afghan or sweater), blocking makes everything the same size and shape, so seaming is easier and cleaner.

Types of Blocking Used:

- · Wet blocking soak the item, then pin it to shape.
- · Steam blocking lightly steam the piece using an iron or steamer.
- · Spray blocking spray water over the piece and pin it.

A blocking board (especially with a grid) makes this whole process more precise and consistent.





Malcolm Armstrong

"This is another iteration of my Jacaranda bandsaw boxes which I've made over the past couple of years.

This one has a branch! It also has a tapered top box which makes this box unique but if I was honest I made a blooper and tried to cover it up! I pushed too hard on the bandsaw blade and unfortunately the taper was an unwanted outcome. However with a good finish and green flocking applied to the internal of each draw it was a functional box. The unstable bark was firstly anchored with super glue followed by 6 coats of satin Anchor varnish. The handles were different to my previous boxes as I made them round by using a small hole saw with the centre drill removed (before this I made a template without the drill and placed the template over the Jacaranda stock to make the handles). I only have five more short logs to go! Hopefully this one will make a small contribution to the club's sales figures."



GUEST SPEAKER Alan Stubbs Biosecurity - Sydney Airport



Alan provided a very interesting bio in our June newsletter and then presented a summary of his experiences, working in biosecurity from 2007 - 2017 at our June Maxi Day. The following is an extract of Alan's presentation with some interesting and amusing experiences during his time at the airport.

WAS I GOING TO DIE? During the ebola scare I was on the ebola squad that examined sick passengers. We were gowned up with full body gear and a mask. A man came through sweating profusely and was directed to us. His card showed he was a doctor and had been in equatorial Africa. The duty nurse was contacted and the the situation explained. She responded by saying, if he was a doctor he should be OK and consequently he was released. The next day I was watching afternoon TV when a man was shown being wheeled feet first into Westmead hospital emergency ward. Panic! It was the passenger we processed yesterday! I isolated myself and went in early the next day. I was told if I didn't feel sick, I did not have ebola. Great relief!

DID I CAUSE A DIVORCE? A couple arrived back on the Thai flight and were routinely processed. The woman looked at the woman passenger being processed next to her, who had some exquiste asian rosewood jewellry boxes, which were released. She looked at me angrily and said "Why have you let that go?" I explaned that the wood was processed and showed no sign of insect infestation. She then spat at her husband "You told me not to buy those because they would be taken at the barrier in Australia! Stupid me said "Oh no, their fine" She went off saying some very nasty words to her maybe ex-husband.

EXCUSES! Me - "Why did you not declare this food? PAX - Its not food. ME - Yes it is. PAX - No, its not food be cause it hasn't been cooked. A repeat of the above PAX: It's only food when its served up on a plate!

DOGS. A passenger attracted the attention of one of the beagles, which started jumping up on him, a real no no. The dog handler was suspicious and noticed one of those thick multi coloured biros in his shirt pocket. The pen contained five live queen bees. He was fined \$15,000.

WHAT IS AUSTRALIA LIKE? Mid July, young people arriving from all over the World for a catholic youth conference. Four young women from Poland thought all of Australia was tropical, and only had rather flimsy summer clothing. They were planning to camp in a tent at Blackheath. A Polish speaking workmate gave them the bad news.

CAN YOU USE THIS? There was a very strong "Look after your workmates" camraderie in Biosecurity. I had a young Danish woman, a personal trainer, for processing. She was stunningly good looking in face and body. As I started the inspection I felt a tapping against my foot by my workmate next to me who was a lesbian. I knew what this meant, so I told the PAX "I have to fix something on the floor, so I will hand you over to my collegue" We looked after each other at the airport

PRESIDENT'S REPORT July 2025

A warm welcome to the new members, John Stanton, Michael Faure and Ross Turley.

Thanks to Roger Wash for arranging the IDCARE scam video link, it was well received. Don't be scared to use their services if you have any scam concerns. It is a free service.

The new Sherwood router is now in place and up and running. There are a couple of differences to the other Sherwood router in the setting up of the cutter height. The table lift process is carried out on the top of the table, not on the side. Thanks to all those involved in the procurement, assembly and installation/commissioning of the machine. The mystery remains, what happened to the role of orange water hose that came with the machine!

Thanks to all members who attended the June toy making day.

July focus – machine cleanliness. If you use a machine, please clean it down after use, as per the induction procedure. Have consideration for others.

Safety – Safety is the responsibility of every member of the club. If in doubt, ASK.

GET TO KNOW US

Neil Matthews

I began from humble beginnings. I grew up in Peak Hill without a father. I got an electrical apprenticeship when I left school. I moved to Sydney in 1958 to get my electrical license and worked in a variety of electrical industries. In 1963 we built our first house in Sylvania. I did all of the excavations and built the entire kitchen and cupboards.



I worked in wiring high-rise buildings, then at Boral Oil refinery, a Scientific Instrument company, and a Paper mill in circuit design and service work.

In 1967 I completed Electronics and Communications certificate. (My only academic qualification.)

In 1968 I was employed by General Electric to be trained for six months overseas as a Numerical Control Service Engineer. I commissioned many NC machine tools that at that time had never been seen in Australia.

I also received training in the Central Operating Systems for Bulk Ore Ships being built by BHP. I commissioned three of these five ships. My service work was challenging as I was the only one in Australia. No computers or internet in those days.

My overseas training in Germany, UK, and USA with GE was probably better than a university degree. This is because at that stage, GE was the world leader in numerical controls and I worked with the best of machine tool manufacturers that existed at that time.

After six years with GE, conditions sent me in a new career path. I had numerous requests from customers to fit numerical controls to their machines. GE only wanted me as a service engineer and this was not their field of work. A disagreement with my then boss at GE had me decide that if it was such a good idea then why not do it myself.

in 1974 I started Numericon Pty Ltd that ran for 30 years and employed up to 10 people. I had absolutely no business experience, so "make it up as you go". In the days before the internet, to keep up with the latest developments, every two years I attended International Exhibitions in Europe and USA; I found the world's best components used in our industry. These were not available in Australia, and I finished up with over 20 exclusive agencies for these components. Circuit design was one of my strong-points and in 1975 I designed and built a test rig for Arthur Bishops new variable pitch rack & pinion steering system, now used in 30% of the worlds cars.

Building control systems led me to being involved in the design in Melbourne of the world's first NC laser cutter for sheetmetal sheeting. In 1977 I designed controls for the first two-axis NC pressbrake in Australia which we exhibited this machine in Singapore at "Machine Asia" 1979. This led to NC sheet metal cut-to-length lines. In the mid 1980's Ford Geelong became a good customer and we finished up automating all of their stamping lines, and became a "preferred supplier" to Ford.

In the 1980's customers were requesting CNC machines that were not available in Australia and led to the design of the "Autofeeder" for many applications such as the video recently shown at the club for tube cutting.

We have been involved in a range of many different applications. In the mid 1990's following the death of two children being caught in closing bus doors, State transit called for expression of interest in bus door safety systems. We were successful in this tender and designed and fitted 350 Sydney buses with our system. The specification we designed for the Sydney buses became used in the national standard for bus door safety.

In the late 1990's two different projects. We designed and built a filling machine for Ramset, solving a problem they had with their Chemset product. One of the longest machines that we designed was a 10-metre assembly machine for the valve-train of the Ford Falcon 6-cylinder engine. This machine assembled 400 valve-trains a day and produced a total of 280,000 assemblies for Ford Falcons.

We have lived in the Sutherland shire since 1960, currently in Sylvania. I retired in 2004 and spent 11 years with my wife, Pat and a Bushtracker caravan exploring 150,000km of outback Australia. In 2012 we bought a 150-acre property in Rylstone as a weekender. I joined the Woodies in 2014, the day they opened in Lilly Pilly



Drop Saw Safety

The following are some Notes from Ian's Videos presented on Maxi Day 14th June 25 titled '20 Mitre Saw Tips For Beginners'. These notes can be found using the following link:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-hN2jWPAyzs

- Make sure the blade is square to the base and the fence.
- Do not cross your arms/hands when making a cut.
- Mark the cut and cut along the outside line.
- Start the cut with the blade up not down.
- Add a stop lock to the set up for cutting repetitive pieces.
- Allow the blade to come to a full stop before raising the blade.
- Add additional fence for long pieces and support at the end.
- For trimming pieces, bring the blade down and move the piece up to the blade.
- Always clean the blade.
- · Activate dust extraction system.
- When cutting dowels prepare a jig with a 45-degree slot in it to clamp the dowel.
- Use a pencil with a rubber to hold small pieces instead of your finger.
- The drop-saw can be used to cut rabbets and dadoes using the depth gauge on the saw.
- Always use eye and ear protection.



On Tuessday 24 June after coffee we had the benefit of an interactive video conference with a Brisbane based organisation called ID Care. It was a very useful session and provided us with great background on scams and illegal communication that we all contine to receive either via emails or texts. The following provides a summary of ID Care and encourages us to use them both for personal or friends and family.

Scammed or think your personal or business information has been misused?

IDCARE is Australia and New Zealand's national identity and cyber support service. We help individuals and businesses who've been impacted by scams, cybercrime, or the misuse of their personal or financial information.

Your members can call us on 1800 595 160 (toll-free) and speak with one of our specialist case managers for free, confidential support.

To learn more or access our free resources, visit: www.idcare.org

You can help spread the word by sharing our website or posters and brochures in your workplace or community spaces. We're always happy to send out materials or give short presentations to raise awareness.

LIBRARIAN NOTES

We (Maurice) received advice from Council of Woodwork clubs with the following links to Australian Wood Review. Thought you may find some ideas for future projects.

https://www.councilwoodworkclubs.org

Snippets from Australian Wood Review

Article - Making a phone stand (I guess you could also adapt it to a tablet stand)

Video - Making Bento Boxes

Article - Dovetails in the Round

Project - A child's chair

Ideas - Some ideas from Melbourne Design Week

Video - Making the Ash Tea Cabinet



Safety Notice



Safety is the responsibility of every member of the club

Birthdays in July



29 June Tony Cauchi 01 July Doug O'Hara 14 July Ron Cameron

16 July Greg & Michelle Rose 21 July Peter Toby 26 July Ray Mallet 15 July Karianne Lafrance 31 July Bruce Dowdell 31 July Warren Monaghan

Raffle Winners 14th June Maxi Day



Axel Tennie 1st 2nd Richard Cain 3rd Neil Mitchell

New Members



Michael Faure Ross Turley John Stanton

Buy Swap Sell

We have introduced a new agenda item to our maxiday events. If you have tools and equipment that you no longer use and you want to get rid of them we can advertise the in the newsleter. Just drop me a line (copy in Maurice Smith) and we will try to sell them.

COMEDY CORNER





WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN IGNORANCE AND INDIFFERENCE?

> I DON'T KNOW And I don't care.























SAWDUST & SHAVINGS



SHIRE WOODWORKING CLUB 2025 CALENDAR

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SAWDUST & SHAVINGS



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	lan 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	