

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>

FEBRUARY 2025 NEWSLETTER

Maxi Day - 8th Feb

8:45	Open Lilli Pilli Workshop
9:00	Monthly Meeting
9:30	Ian's Videos
10:00	Morning Tea
10:30	Show & Tell/Buy Swap Sell
11.30	Guest Speaker-Neil Mitchell Overview of Neil's automated dust extraction system
12:30	Lunch
1:00	Update on Cook Raffle sales
1.30	Raffle

COOK RAFFLE TICKETS:

This year there are significantly better prizes compared to last time. Tickets are only \$3 each or \$25 for a book of 10. Deadline for payment is this coming Maxi Day, Saturday 8th February. **On Saturday tickets will be for cash only please.** You have to be in it to win it! See Notice board for Club shirts

Our 2024 **EXCELLENCE AWARDS** were held on 11th January in the following categories:

Furniture

Tim Dodds - Lecturn **FIRST** PRIZE IN CATEGORY

Art

Peter Toby - Surf Club Trophy
Geoff Tong - Vase **FIRST** PRIZE IN CATEGORY

Utilities

David Johnstone - Burl Bowl
Malcolm Armstrong - Banksaw Box
Gary Healey - 2 tier jewellery box
Tom Croucher - Jewellery Box **FIRST** PRIZE IN CATEGORY

Overall Winner: Tom Croucher

See pages 2&3 for descriptions



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”

FURNITURE CATEGORY

Lecturn

Tim Dodds



The following is taken from the January 2025 Newsletter, Show & Tell and presented for the Excellence Awards:

The Lectern was built for the RMYC Port Hacking Sailing Division. The timber was from the Workshop Shed and had to be re-purposed for this project. The timber was Australian Sassafras from Northern Australian Coast and from old government office/buildings and close to 100 years old.

The timber was joined to give the desired width using the thicknesser and drum sander. The Lectern was made in 3 separate pieces so that it could be disassembled for storage.

I engraved the Lectern with club's logo and a little bit of history of the timber.

ART CATEGORY

Vase

Geof Tong



This is my fourth attempt at this project.

When I first saw a picture on the internet I thought it was a piece of cake but it was more difficult than I thought. The first two attempts are in the rubbish bin. The initial problem was finding the right drill for the job.

The brad point drill bit was my first choice but that didn't work out. I thought the step drill bit would solve my problems but the increments are 2 mm and hole size between each row is too obvious. The hole size should decrease gradually towards the pered ends of the bowl.

I bought a cone shape abrasive drill attachment and that saved the day.

As I was working towards the lower part of the bowl I realised the wall thickness was increasing so I had to do some more hollowing. I had to be extra careful because with most of the holes drilled the project was at a very delicate stage. One mistake and the whole bowl would turn into splinters. Finished it with three or four coats of polyurethane, light sanding between each coats.

David Johnstone

The following has been taken January 2025 Show & Tell:

The Bowl was set up on a face plate to enable the recess to be turned in the bottom. This also allowed me to turn the outside. I reversed the bowl holding it by the recess and commenced turning the inside. After aligning the lathe, I completed the inside of the bowl and then sanded. The inside is finished with food safe beeswax and mineral oil mix. The outside is finished with Danish oil.

Burl Bowl



Gary Healey

Jewellery Box

The jewellery box design was from one of the books from the workshop library. The design consisted of 3 layers but I modified the design to fit in a particular location, height restriction.

The box was constructed of jacaranda timber from my daughters neighbours garden that I received about 2-3 years ago. I painted the ends of the log and put it aside in my "workshop" and after about 2 year I cut the 350mm log into boards 15mm thick. I weighed each board and noted the date and weight on each of the boards and stacked them with 10mm slats between boards to keep them flat and to enable the air to circulate. I re-weighed each board every couple of months until their weight stabilised. The drying took about 9 months.

I mitred the corners and put feathers in the corners for strength. I made a template to drill the holes for the links to ensure the box sat level when opened and placed a leg on the back of the top draw to ensure the box was stable when opened.

The dividers in the top draw were cut thin, 3mm and I left the raw edge exposed. The draws were lined with suede material supplied by Ray Bywater. The box was finished with 3 coats of Kunos Oil I purchased from Bungendore Wood Works, easy to use and smells pleasant.



Tom Croucher

Making a jewelry box presents quite a few challenges:

- Knowing you are creating an item of beauty.
- Planning and designing it, from an image in your mind.
- Attention to fine detail.
- Using the Laser to have a different coloured inlay in the lid.
- Recovering from and hiding the occasional mistake.
- The high degree of accuracy required, especially in this case, ensuring that a narrow band of brown grain continued and joined up at the 4 corners, when the rest of the timber was a beautiful red.



The anchor clear spray created a most beautiful finish highlighting the quality of the Rosewood which is a beautiful fine grained timber that is so easy to work with.

Seeing what you picture in your mind looking so good and being happy with the outcome. Seeing the delight on the recipient's face. But all the work was worth it. The outcome was very rewarding.

Thank you again to Ian Rudd for your patience and great teaching.

Jacaranda Bandsaw Box

Malcolm Armstrong



"I have made a few of these from lumber felled in 2015. This one is a three drawer version. The drawer cavities were cut on the Laguna bandsaw which has the Carter blade guide allowing smaller radius cuts. Entry cuts were alternated from left and right sides to make for easier glue/clamping of the body. Each drawer was lined with green flocking over a thin sealer coat prior to a final thicker base coat of the same green acrylic paint. The drawer handles are natural edge bark from offcuts. I downloaded a Shutterstock image of a portion of Jacaranda branch in flower for added effect and lasered it onto the top of the box. CA glue was applied to areas of unstable bark, followed by 6 coats of Anchor Satin finish.

SHOW AND TELL

Tony Browne

Recently I found mums butler tipping money box. My great grandfather made it around 1935 for her. It was made from an old teacheast (for shipping bulk tea) I measured it and traced the butler, then scanned to the lazer program, added joints for easy assembly as the old one was precisely named with very small pins.

Painting butler was ok but getting him balanced was fiddly, his face and nose was blushing so I think he's a bit tipsy. Placed coin on his tray and tilts and banks it. We could change him to a roo, emu or Blueie or other animals. Plans are on the PC if you want to use.



Money Box



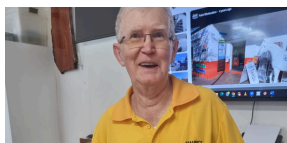
Brian Harward

Regarding the cutting board, the inspiration came from a YouTube video which was very informative and included some dimensions. The Timbers used were Merbau, Tasmanian Oak and Pine. If I was to do it again I would use something better than pine. The finish is the usual mineral oil and a little bees wax.

Cutting Board



Craft Box



Maurice Smith

Last year I was given some Silky Oak timber and as I had never had the opportunity to use this timber previously, I was determined to produce one or more items from this beautiful timber to do it justice.

After preparing the timber I ended up with sufficient timber to make 2 identical craft boxes, one of which is shown in the photo.

I was really delighted with the timber's golden colouring that emerged after applying multiple layers of shellac. The other first for me in making this box was the use of so-called rare earth magnets which I placed in three of the corners of the box and accompanying lid. I took great care to ensure that the magnet's polarity was correct. The lift out tray's base and internal box base were covered with a deep red flocking material.

Ray Tregoning

Wedge blocks to help make beds

These blocks are a copy of an injection moulded plastic one Richard brought in to make a copy for his own use. I took a copy of the pattern to make a couple for my own use. As it happened a lady brought in a piece of 250x70 finger jointed pine which was just perfect to make two.

I called upon Ian to laser engrave them with "Helps make you bed" then sprayed them with 100% gloss Anchor. One of our Woollooware Shores workshop members has had a look and asked if his wife could have one, so finding some 250x70 Oregon at the Club I have made another six with enough leftover timber for another six if needed as these could be a useful item down here at Woollooware Shores for some of our residents.



Gary Healey



Bowls

GUEST SPEAKER

Stuart Jamieson

We had an excellent guest speaker, Stuart Jamieson from Paint Wholesalers located at 53 Eton Street in Sutherland. They have been serving the Sutherland Shire for over 30 years. Stuart's presentation covered everything about the various supplies of paints, stains, glues, abrasives, wood preparation and finishing.

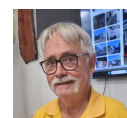
- Anchor products
 - Hard Burnishing oil
 - Danish Oil
 - Organ oil
 - Tongue oil
 - Outside oils/paints
- Penetrol
 - Stain & varnish products
 - Polyurethan
 - Paint Strippers
 - Roof Paints

Stuart emphasised their availability to provide advice to all our club members at any time during our projects, from beginning to end.



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

February 2025



Last month saw the passing of a longtime member of the club, Doug Wickens, condolences were sent to the family and Graham Ethell arranged for details to be sent to the Leader.

The Cook Awards & Raffle tickets are available in the Gallery, see Graham Ethell for tickets.

The Club is preparing a submission for a grant to replace the "Triton" router with a high speed spindle as is fitted to the existing Sherwood Router. The existing "Triton" has problems with vibration and unreliable operation. The new spindle and cooling system will be fitted into the existing table.

Work has commenced on the rationalising of the timber storage area, inside the shed and the area around the shed. The outer area has been cleaned up and the unwanted timber has been disposed of. Can all member ensure that the outer area is kept clean and tidy. The workshop timber storage is now being sorted.

Enjoy your woodworking.

Safety – Safety is the responsibility of every member of the club.

Gary Healey

President

NOTICE BOARD



Club Clothing: Club Shirts, Jackets & Aprons are the only orders I am able to facilitate this year, so if you want to order any Club Clothing please note deadline for orders with money is Saturday 15th February. Thanks Graham Ethell

Raffle Winners

- 1st - Bob Quigley
- 2nd - Tony Browne
- 3rd - Ian Rudd
- 4th - Neil Matthews

Birthdays in February

- | | |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| 02- Les Symonds | 12- Peter Howard |
| 05- Gary Freitas | 13- Olivia Cooney |
| 08- Wanda Moura | 17- George Lycakis |
| 08- Alan Stubbs | 22- David Johnson |
| 11- Brian McCarthy | 25- Graham Ethell |

Bottlo cans for cancer kids -

For those members who are not cashing in their **cans / bottles** for grandkids pocket money, how about bringing them in and dropping them into our 'kids cancer bin.

1 member X 1 can / bottle per month yields: \$1.20 /pa. X 12 = \$14.40 X 100 members = \$ 144.00 Now if 100 members brought in 12 cans per month (or 3 per week) .. \$1.20 X 12 X 100 = \$ 1,440.00 even if only 50 of us were such high achievers that's still \$720.00 , a bucket load of Dominos, sandpaper and other consumables.

Or for the frugally minded, it's a new avenue to keep our annual membership fee increase at bay ! :

Rags !

Members' generous discarded contributions to the shed's rag reserves is appreciated but the labour involved in turning curtains, sheets, towels etc into useable sized rags shouldn't be outsourced to other club members. So if you wish to unload your surplus linen press please do so in a ready to use form .

Shire Woodworking Club farewells its oldest member

By Eva Kolimar

Updated January 16 2025 - 12:04pm, first published January 13 2025 - 1:04pm

Leader



Doug Wickens, the oldest member of the Shire Woodworking Club, has died, age 103. File picture by Chris Lane

Doug Wickens, the oldest Shire Woodworking Club member, has died at age 103.

Mr Wickens was a man of many talents, particularly in the workshop, where one of his life's passions was tinkering with wood and transforming drab planks into toy marvels.

Established in 1998, the Shire Woodworking Club was created as a space for people to meet, chat and give back to the community.

Based at Lilli Pilli in a hall, the club's home was a supportive hub for members to develop friendships, build crafty skills, learn from each other's projects, and guide each other through life's ups and downs.

Mr Wickens joined in 2002. Alongside others, he helped make wooden toys, which were delivered to charities supporting disadvantaged families and sick children in hospitals.

As one of the more experienced members, Mr Wickens was quick to pass on any tips and tricks of the trade but was also willing to keep learning and expanding his fine woodworking skills.



Doug Wickens, pictured on the far left, enjoyed his time learning at Shire Woodworking Club. File picture by John Veage

Fellow club member Graham Ethell said Mr Wickens was still a very active member and continued making woodwork items until his 100th birthday.

"We remember him as specialising particularly in box making and woodturning," Mr Ethell said. "He was a very regular attendee at the monthly meeting of club members and was particularly interested in the 'show and tell' items. He would always ask some questions about some aspect of woodworking he hadn't done before, then go home and try it out.

"One particular instance I recall is when I showed a small table I had made and French polished. He was really interested in French polishing, asked me a lot of questions, and then went home and made a beautiful piece of furniture, which he then French polished at about age 95."

Mr Wickens was born April 30, 1921. He lived at Ferndale Nursing Home at Mortdale. He died on January 8, 2025.

"Doug Wickens was a remarkable individual who dedicated his life to serving his country and participating in his community," Oatley MP Mark Coure said. "I have had the privilege of knowing Doug and his wife Betty for over 30 years. His contributions, whether through his service or the works he created, will continue to be cherished by all who knew him. My condolences to Betty his wife for over 75 years and to the Wickens family, he will be sadly missed."

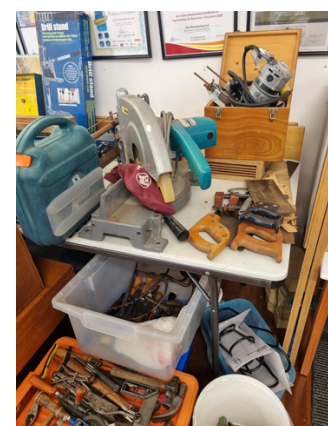
CLUB CLEAN-UP

A couple of weeks ago several of our club members completed a clean-up of the wood storage area on the Western end of the club property. If you look now you will find that the shed has now had a significant amount of timber removed making the shed now much more accessible. We will be installing a couple of solar powered lights to provide good visibility in the shed. There are still several areas of timber storage inside the workshop viz in the storage room in the south west corner, on the mezzanine floor of the workshop, on the southern end of the workshop (top shelf) and in the gallery room (several tassie oak pieces from the Cronulla RSL.) We do plan to do further work to rationalise our timber storage arrangements. Time frame TBA. Members please note we must be much more judicious with receiving further timber. If in doubt, talk to a committee member. We have also retained some timber for members personal use at home. (winter is coming). See picture.



At the same time we have also completed a clean out of the store room adjacent to the kitchen in the gallery building. We will continue to use this room for storage of chairs but we do plan to alter the internal shelving and a coat of paint to the exterior wall of the storeroom. Ray Tregoning is our interior decorator and he has plans to also re-position the large RSL desk to the front door.

We now have a significant of tooling that is available for sale to members, friends and the public. Have a look next time you're at the club and any reasonable offer will be accepted. OR we will dispose of it some other way. The following pictures show the equipment that is available and is stacked up in the gallery.



COMEDY CORNER

Sometimes someone unexpected comes into your life outta nowhere, makes your heart race and changes you forever...

We call these people cops.



"It's about Billy's woodwork project..."



"Ever since my fame, everyone's been coming out of the woodwork claiming to be a relative."



I got myself a seniors' GPS. Not only does it tell me how to get to my destination, it tells me why I wanted to go there.

I've found marriage to be very educational. For example, I had no idea there was a wrong way to put milk in the fridge.



I tried to come up with a carpentry pun that involved woodwork. I think I nailed it but nobody saw it.

I'm at that age where my back goes out more that I do!!

SHIRE WOODWORKING CLUB 2025 CALENDAR

January 2025 1							February 2025 2							March 2025 3						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa	S	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa	S	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
			PH	2	3	4							1							1
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
19	20	21	22	23	24	25 #	16	17	18	19	20	21	22 #	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
26	PH	28	29	30	31		23	24	25	26	27	28		23	24	25	26	27	28	29
														30	31					
April 2025 4							May 2025 5							June 2025 6						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa	S	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa	S	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5					1	2	3	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	4	5	6	7	8	9	10 #	8	PH	10	11	12	13	14
13	14	15	16	17	PH	PH	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
PH	PH	22	23	24	PH	26	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
27	28	29	30				25	26	27	28	29	30	31	29	30					
July 2025 7							August 2025 8							September 2025 9						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa	S	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa	S	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5						1	2		1	2	3	4	5	6
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	3	BH	5	6	7	8	9	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	10	11	12	13	14	15	16 1	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
27	28	29	30	31			24	25	26	27	28	29	30	28	29	30				
							31													
October 2025 10							November 2025 11							December 2025 12						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa	S	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa	S	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
			1	2	3	4 8							1		1	2	3	4	5	6
5	PH	7	8	9	10	11	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
19	20	21	22	23	24	25 #	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	21	22	23	24	PH	PH	27
26	27	28	29	30	31		23	24	25	26	27	28	29	28	29	30	31			
							30													

LEGEND:



Club Days - Every Tuesday to Thursday + Saturdays **except 1st Saturday**



Committee Meeting 12:30pm - Tuesday, prior to 2nd Saturday.
Note: Own projects catered for before & 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 2025 is Saturday 20 December. Resume Tuesday 6 January 2026

Note: There must be a minimum of 3 members present on any day. No exceptions.

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

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 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	