Shire Woodworking Club

Sawdust & Shavings

January 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

JANUARY 2026





Maxi Day 10 January 2026

8:45	Open Lilli Pilli Workshop
9:00	Monthly Meeting
9:30	Update on Belt Sander Options - Gary Healey
9:45	Ian's videos
10:00	Morning Tea
10:30	Excellence Awards
11:30	Excellence Awards
1.00	Raffle Draw

Future Guest Speakers

10th Jan Excellence Awards

14th Feb Terry Lancaster-Sydney Maritime Museum and wooden ships (Endeavour.....)

14thMar Anthony Cordina-Crime Prevention Officer at Sutherland Police

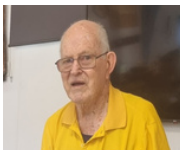
11th April Bob Kearney – "Fishing in the Good Old Days"

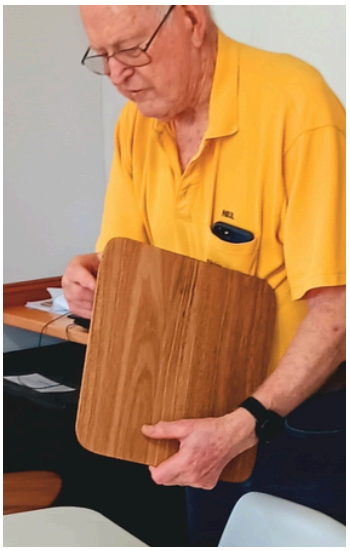
If you would like to receive this newsletter or have an article / idea for the newsletter, please contact the editor via email on **theshirewoodworkingclub@gmail.com**.

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MAXIDAY SHOW AND TELL 13 DECEMBER

Caravan Cutting Board Neil Matthews





At the recent Gymea Fair, a customer asked if we could make a cutting board that would fit in the sink of his off-road caravan to extend the useable length of the bench. I accepted this order and found a small sink 375mm square rounded at each corner. The sink like most kitchen sinks sits about 5mm proud of the bench with an edge about 26mm wide that drops off at 450 7mm to an edge at the side of the sink which is rounded at a larger angle giving a flat surface at each corner.

My idea was to make a board that would be flush with the top of the sink and be a snug fit so that it would not bounce out while the off-road caravan was travelling.

Measurements: I needed precise inside measurements, so I made up a sliding gauge out of two pieces of wood 17x5mm, one with a 6mm slot 200mm long and the other with a M6 screw and plastic nut. I could slide this assembly inside the sink and measure it with a tape measure at 316mm. The inside and outside angles were measured with a bent piece of coat hanger wire.

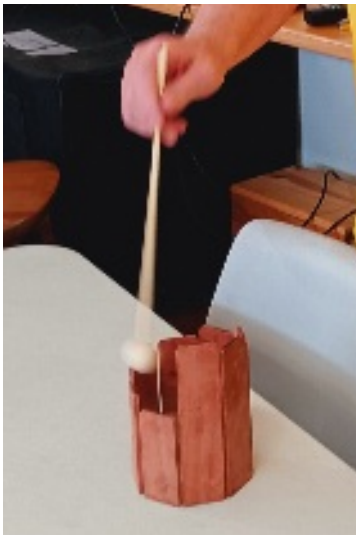
Construction: I had 3 pieces of blackbutt hardwood at home 150x 19m 600mm long. To be cut 330mm with a fill-in piece just 35mm wide. I first cut a test piece out of cedar and took it for a fit test. I then made a more accurate test piece again for a fit test. Initially I cut the 450 on my table saw but this cut removed the edge for a snug fit. I used a 900-groove cutter in my home-made router table cutting the workpiece edge vertically against the fence. Then cutting the snug edge on my mitre saw. To cut the inner radius I made up a template and used a trim router for the cutout. All the pieces cut; I took them to the Woodies to join with dominos. I got some help to set up then stuffed it by not tightening the depth stop. This meant a haircut and to remake the centre panel. Final test for installation, I found the sink narrowed slightly near the corner curves. A mm haircut with my-depth set mitre saw. Now OK and a satisfied customer.

Neil Matthews

Ian Rudd

Hexagonal xylophone

At the December visit to The Sydney Children's Hospital we were shown a simple Octagonal Mini Xylophone that the therapist use with their patients. We decided to make some of these for future visits and the sound such a small unit produces is very soothing. This one was made from some hardwood that was in the workshop and it gave an excellent result.







Christmas Party MaxiDay 13 December 2025























CELEBRATING CHRISTMAS

















RAFFLE PRIZE WINNERS- CHRISTMAS HAMPERS









PRESIDENT'S REPORT - JANUARY 2026



I would like to welcome all club members back to the club and wish everyone a happy and prosperous new year.

Thank you to the club Committee and Sub-Committee members for their tireless efforts during the 2025 year. And thanks to those members who step up and assist the committee in carrying out their duties, this is what keeps the club going and makes a great club.

Thank you to all those members who contributed to the constant supply of toys and other items that were sold at our events and supplied to the various charity events during the year and to those members who contributed their time to make those events a success.

I look forward to an enjoyable year at the club with entertaining Maxi-days and creative woodworking by our members.

This month we have the judging of the Excellence Awards. The Awards are for items produced during the 2025 year. Bring your entries along to the Maxi-day on 10th. January 2026.

Gary Healey - President

Sutherland Shire Council – Mayors Visit to the Club

During December the Club was able to have a meeting with the SCC Mayor, Jack Boyd, at the club house, The purpose of which was to highlight the club's activities within the local community, our fund raising methods and workmanship. The Mayor was impressed with the workshop and what we do with charities, namely RCH Randwick and Family Co.

The Mayor responded with a letter outlining "Contacts for Lease and Grant Enquiries" which coupled with GE's contacts enable quick responses to any enquiries we may have.

It was suggested that the Club may be interested in a site visit to the Sutherland Shire Councils workshop at a future date, contact details were supplied. Committee to follow up. The Mayor may restart a Council fundraiser for a local charity and will get in touch if it proceeds.

Gary Healey
President

Thanks from the Assistant Editor-the flowers are beautiful







GET TO KNOW US

David Johnson



I was born in Nambour Qld on the 22/2/1958 now aged 67.
We lived at Calandra until I was 5 years old, then we moved to a dairy farm and went to primary school in Eudlo QLD. I travelled by steam engine train to secondary school at Nambour High School. Our family moved to Buderim and I left school in Nov 1973 completing Year 10.
First started paid work on a passionfruit farm at the age of 11years which was a few miles from the dairy farm.

Began official work before leaving school, starting as a trainee cook at a motel restaurant on Buderim. Then went cooking in different places eg Mackay, Cains, Mount Isa, Weipa, Sydney, Cobar and again in Sydney before joining the Royal Australian Navy on 13 Jan 1976.

Joined as a Marine Technical Propulsion sailor, completed an apprenticeship as a fitter and machinist. Progressed through the ranks to Chief Petty Officer with a Diploma of Marine Engineering Systems. I discharged from the Navy in Jan 1996 after 20 years, then transferred to the Active Ready Reserve for another 5 years which meant I was still doing ship repairs, tests and trials. During these 5 years I started a business, DJ Handyman Services, doing small household maintenance jobs, including painting, cleaning roofs & windows, mowing lawns and everything in between, even taking older people to appointments e.g. Banks, Doctors and Chemists. Progressed to doing maintenance and gardening in a number of Private Hospitals which lead to be on call 24/7 being a contractor. Also did maintenance at a few schools which meant I cut back on the lawn mowing etc. We closed the business at the end of June 2024 and are happy in retirement.

Married Sally on 14/12/1985 and we have 2 daughters and 2 grand-daughters.

While in the Navy I travelled around Australia and Overseas on the ships HMAS Perth, Hobart and Brisbane. Went to a lot of sea ports while in the Navy, never got very far ashore from the ships. Sally and I have been trying to remedy this lack of inland adventures in Australia and Overseas in the recent years.

I excelled at weight lifting in Bantam weight division while at high school, did horse riding while in the Navy training out at Nirimba & won a few ribbons. I am also a member of St George Archers and went to number of interclub shoots and state competitions.

I have a few hobbies: Archery, Woodturning, Woodworking, Outdoor activities and Cooking.

Joined the Shire Woodworking Club (SWC) in 2007 Badge Number 217 and also joined the Cubbyhouse Woodturners at the same time to do something instead of just working all the time.
Have made a few cutting boards and bowls, also a number of work-related items during this period. Intend to make more Cutting boards, bowls and children's toys.
I enjoy the facilities at the club, the friendship and assistance of SWC members.



Using Saw Stop Professional Table Saw

1. Dust Gate Operation: Automatic on start up & shutdown

2. To activate lift up main yellow On/Off switch . Complete sequence of "Get Ready" initialisation showing solid green LED before starting machine. green light flashes as saw slows down.
WARNING: Always make sure the blade has come to a complete stop & the coast down status mode has cleared (solid green) before touching the blade

3. Red paddle lever is lifted out to start, pushed in to stop. Can be stopped using knee if required.

4. Removing & replacing zero clearance insert is explained during induction as is correct storage of accessories such as spanners, riving knife & mitre gauge

5. Saw raise & lower hand wheel. Always loosen lock knob before raising or lowering saw blade. Clockwise up & anticlockwise down. tighten lock knob after setting height.

6. Saw tilt handle position located on right side of cabinet. loosen lock knob, wind handle to required angle using digital angle finder (explained during induction) retighten lock knob after setting.

7. Recommended saw blade height should be no more than 15mm above timber thickness

8. Removing & replacing riving knife & overhead guard assembly is achieved by firstly removing the zero clearance insert then releasing the quick release clamp handle & lifting the assembly straight up. Replace assembly in reverse order making sure the mushroom rivets on the underside of the zero insert interlock with the rivets in the insert bed.

9. Understand how the blade guard works. Be aware of the 2 sets of non kick back pawls attached to the assembly. make sure the guard does not come in contact with the fence when ripping narrow widths. Use auxiliary fence that fits over the original fence

10. Rip fence is be used on right side (default) & alternatively left side. See 2 tape measures

11. Call for assistance if cutting large sheets or long lengths

12. Use push sticks & feather boards where possible

13. Leave machine for next operator, i.e. Turn off main yellow switch & brush down table top. Do not leave material or items on extension table. Note: New policy adopted at committee meeting 4/10/2022. Reimbursement for member activation of safety cartridge due to negligence. Note: Check second hand timber with scanner for conductive material before cutting Note: Do not attempt to cut damp timber (incl. uncured glue, mirrored acrylic, marine & form plywood) while safety system is active. Note: Do not rip cut timber shorter than width of exposed blade. Note: Read safe work procedure sheet before signing induction form



NOTICE BOARD

Safety Notice

Safety is the responsibility of every member of the club

Cook Raffle - Last chance to buy tickets

The raffle is closing soon so this is your last chance to be in the running to win one of the valuable prizes.

Ticket sales will close on Saturday 31 January, so get in soon so you don't miss out.

See Roger Dixon, Alan Ritchie or Graham Ethell, who will be only too happy to accept your money and issue you with the tickets.

Birthdays in January

01 Jan Kevin Burke
08 Jan Amber Johnstone
17 Jan Ray de Marco
25 Jan Paul Bright
29 Jan Tony Fenech
31 Jan Ian Elton

Buy Swap Sell

If you have tools and equipment that you get rid of them 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









She said she missed me. Normally that would be good, but she's reloading.

Why must I prove that I am me to pay my bills over the phone? Do strangers call to pay my Bills? And if they do, why don't you let them?

Condolences and Funnies





A hacker called me and said he had all my passwords, I got a pen and paper and said 'Thank God for that, what are they'

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
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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

S	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
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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
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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
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26	27	28	29	30	31	

August 2026 8

S	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
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16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

Your paragraph text

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	