Shire Woodworking Club

SAWDUST & SHAVINGS

OCT 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: Roger and Jan Walsh 0408 240 514 Website : https://shirewoodworking.com.au



October 2026

Maxi Day 10 Oct 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	Guest Speaker Don Parker - Steam Boats
11:30	Show and Tell
12:00	"Guest Speaker" topic discussion-GH
12:30	Lunch
1:30	Raffle
2:00	Close

PLANK COMPETITION

Discover the remarkable creations of our talented woodworkers, who have transformed simple planks into extraordinary toys for our charities. Congratulations to the winners, the place-getters and everyone who participated in the Plank competition!

Future Guest Speakers

14th Nov - David Edwards (Club Member)
"A hodgepodge of Aviation"

12th Dec - Kevin Gowen (Club Member)
"Trout Fishing"

Future Events

25th Oct - Gymea Fair
31st Oct - Woolooware Shores Sales desk
7th Nov - Bunnings BBQ
19th Nov - Family Co (TBC)
3rd Dec - Hospital deliveries (TBC)

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 Oct '26



A warm welcome to our new club members, Justin Perry and Per Sorensen.

Congratulations to our incredible plank competition place getters and all competitors in this year's Plank Competition. Well done!

I would like to invite you to consider a review of our Maxi-day guest speaker arrangements as discussed at the Committee meeting on Tuesday. I am aware that we have shifted away from exclusively wood-related topics and have included non-wood-related speakers, which have been positively received with some exceptional presenters. However, I recognize that some club members may prefer to include a percentage of wood-related guest speakers, and I seek your feedback on this matter.

For example, we have several potential speakers with wood-related expertise, including: a timber supplier and a French polishing expert. We could search for speakers to cover wood related topics covered in previous years, such as, scroll sawing, box making, furniture making and restoration, picture framing, woodturning.

We recognise it can be difficult for members and presenters to be available on Saturdays. An option, to increase members knowledge, would be to invite suppliers and/or vendors to conduct "classes" on specific woodwork related machinery/techniques to be held during normal weekday times. For example the use of the new drop saw, CNC router, lathe use or laser as well as coating options. These would be for 1 – 2 hours.

I encourage you to discuss this option and topics with any of our committee members. Now is the perfect time to assess our priorities, allowing us to implement changes for the upcoming year. I would be grateful for your feedback by the end of October.

Other Matters:

- The **Show and Tell** segment currently serves as a showcase for completed projects but can also address challenges that were tackled, which may not be evident in the final product. Additionally, it's possible that the completed item may not be present at the next Show and Tell. Each presentation should be limited to five minutes per item.
- The Gallery air conditioning system has been installed as well as lighting in the timber storage shed.
- The 3D printer is up and running with several members becoming "experts".
- The club has several events in the next 2 months as per page 1. There is a clipboard in the Gallery to register your assistance at these events.

OBE's - Congratulations! Kevin Burke January, Glen Reeve September, Maurice Smith November and Mark Greenacre December.

Gary Healey - President

SUTHERLAND HOSPITAL



Last month the Sutherland Hospital requested some more timber plaques for their sponsors' wall which Ray T set about making from various offcuts around the workshop. They have been completed. The Hospital also requested a 3 metre long seat for an alcove on the lower ground floor as a place to rest. Ray and I measured up the curved alcove and Ray set to work on the design and construct. The timber used was some donated Oregon ripped down to size and cut to the curve of the wall. The 3 legs were the same offcuts, screwed from the top of the seat and screw holes plugged. The seat was coated with Polycure polyurethane timber coating. The seat will be delivered to the hospital this month. Well done Ray.
Gary H

PLANK COMPETITION



CATEGORY A
1st RAY BYWATER

TT FORD TRUCK

Ford began with the model A in 1903 and gave each model thereafter a letter of the alphabet.

The T model was introduced in 1908, and the truck in 1917 which was called the TT and continued till 1927.

The early ones sold initially for 600 dollars, then reduced to 325dollars through more efficient production and they sold 15 million.

They were 20 horse power and their maximum speed was about 70 mph.

I copied mine from a Model of Yesteryear. It was finished with 2 coats of Cabot's urethane gloss clear.
The windows are press fit and the springs and hangers are made from strips of aluminium bought from Bunnings.
The wheels have separate tyres to prevent the paint from leaching into the rims, and the spokes are dowel.
The bales of hay were made from an old straw broom which I found in a friends garage.
Probably not the most comfortable form of transport, but I think it was a bit better than a horse and cart.





CATEGORY A
2nd ROBERT LEAKE

CRANE

The toy was based on a crane from the "Wooden Toy Manual" by Richard Blizzard from the club library. The design was converted from plywood construction to solid wood and reduced in size for the contest. Coloured dowels, veneer and lettering were added to decorate the toy. A hinged door was added to the back of the cabin to add interest.





CATEGORY A
3rd TIM DODS

THE BOX PYRAMID





Tim is currently enjoying a holiday overseas, so here's the Editor's rendition of his entry.

Tim's entry was totally his design showcasing a unique creation featuring three tiers of boxes set on a rotating base, reminiscent of a "lazy Susan." Its vibrant colors capture attention, offering ample storage for various school writing tools, complete with multiple drawers for pencils, rulers, pens, and more.

Tim mentioned that although the painting process was quite challenging, the final result was up to his high standard securing him third place in a competitive field that included Ray Bywater and Robert Leake.

CATEGORY A
Other Entries

IAN RUDD

JELLY BEAN RACER





The project began with the idea to create a racing car that was rounded like a Jelly Bean. The plank was split down the middle and then cut into rectangles to the overall size of the car. These were all taped together to form a block and then the front and rear axle holes were drilled through the block. This allowed loose dowels to be fitted so the project could be pulled apart as it was being made. The basic jelly bean shape was drawn on the centre pieces and cut out on the bandsaw. These were shaped on the linisher and then that shape was transferred onto the next pieces. This was repeated until the final shape was made. I printed 3D wheels and fitted lights,windsceen and leather seats after finishing the project with Anchor Spray Can gloss. It is a robust toy that should make some child happy.

NEIL MATTHEWS

TRIKE WITH REAR WHEEL STEERING, A WALKER/ TRAINER WITH AN ADJUSTABLE SEAT AND HEADREST FOR SMALL CHILDREN

I like to build "Something Different", so this is a Trike with Rear Wheel Steering, a Walker/ Trainer with an Adjustable Seat and Headrest for Small Children.



Parts: I found the coloured wheels on line but with a $30 delivery charge -No. I had one of the rear wheels at home from a previous project so back to Bunnings for another one. I found the black front wheel on Ebay. The 8mm mild steel axle, complements of my son. Broom handle and rubber hand grips from the Woodies store. Some thread inserts and thumb screws I had at home, completed the list.
I wanted the steering to be free and not come loose or jamb. I found a pair of ball bearings in the store, welded together with a piece of 8mm tube. A piece of M8 threaded rod and a couple of locknuts provided the ideal solution.



One of the things I like about original projects is the number of problems and how to solve them. The body shape that I drew-up for the Trike needed an extension of 50 x 110mm. This was to have a push handle so I figured it needed some biscuits to strengthen the join. Have you ever tried to cut biscuits into a curved piece, just 50mm wide? I traced the curve on a scrap piece of timber, cut it on the bandsaw and clamped it to the bench as a backstop for the biscuit joiner' Next, I had never cut slots on a router table, and these had to be accurate and from a curved edge that eliminated the edge guide. I made-up another edge guide that I clamped to the router table using the straight, other side of the workpiece as a guide. The front wheel needed to be spray-painted blue without getting any spray on the tyre. I drew a circle on a piece of A3 paper. I then used double sided tape then cut out the circle with scissors then stuck this mask on each side of the wheel. It worked! Originally, I planned the wheel axle to be contained between each side of the body. This needed to be in place before the unit was glued together. Not possible until the unit was painted. This meant the axle had to be inserted after painting. This hole then needed plugging to stop the axle from floating.

The plug then needed cutting off and painting, I put some masking tape on a piece of paper & used a wad punch to cut a hole the same size as the plug. This was then taped over the plug, then cut off with a flush cut saw & sanded without damaging the finished painted surface. The plug was then painted with a small brush.

I have enjoyed the various challenges this project has presented to my experience. It is yet to be test-driven by a suitable 4-year-old. The configuration of rear-axle steering gives it a large turning circle that may turn out to be an advantage.

I hope that the child that finishes up with this Trike gets as much satisfaction from this as I had in making it.



ROGER WALSH

THE SUPERMARINE SPITFIRE



AIRCRAFT BACKGROUND

The most identified British Interceptor of WW2. Initial order was 310 aircraft by the air ministry in 1936 with first delivery in August 1938. A twin bladed prop, powered by Merlin V6 powered engine. There were 24 variants of the Spitfire, my model was based on the MK1X. There were over 21,000 produced. Today there still exists 70. Three in Australia. Brad Pitt owns one which he paid 5 million dollars for.

PLANK CONSTRUCTION NOTES:
I obtained the drawings from Etsy based on a 1/9th scale. The drawings provided details on a rib-by-rib basis. Too big and too detailed. Office Works help to reduce.



Stage 1: Combine plank material (9 mm) to allow a fuselage width of 30 ml and a wing thickness of 10 ml, a thickness of 10 ml leading edge and 5 ml trailing edge.
Stage 2 Wing made in 2 pieces joined to a separate centrepiece with plugs, to allow the wings to have the dihedral shape where the wingtips sit higher than the wing root attached to the fuselage.
Stage 3: Fairing made and installed between the fuse and the wing.
Stage 4: In production the wing uses an elliptical shape, 'the perfect wing'. Complex and costly to build.
Stage 5: The fuselage shape was the result of many hours of shaping and sanding on many/most of the machines in the shop using templates prepared from the drawings.

Stage 6: The cockpit was formed from Perspex with a heat gun. The top section made first and the side panels glued into hold together. The pilot was made using the 'Woolies' toys.
Stage 7: The rear tail was used with careful shaping and positioning with tacks used to guide the location of the horizontal stab.
Stage 8: The front engine exhaust uses short dowls stuck to independent pieces and glued to the frame, then burnt to replicate the heat.
Stage 9: The wheel wells simulate the retracted position of the under carriage.
Stage 10: The propeller took various shapes but ultimately uses a 2 blade rather than the ¾ blade configured of later versions.
Stage 11: The skin was painted using an air brush, borrowed from Malcolm Armstrong, with paints from a store at Kogarah. I used the colour scheme used in combat with white on the bottom and green on the top. I then copied the camouflage pallet available from hobby toys. Paint job not good.
Stage 12: The decals were obtained from ebay kit store and adjusted for size. The colour uses the RAF design. Armaments, MK1 original uses Browning-303 that could operate for 14-20 seconds.

Refer video of the Spitfire MK1 cockpit available from 'Imperial War Museums.'

CATEGORY B
1st PETER WARREN

TRACTOR WITH TRAILER

I had a conversation with another member, we both recalled our favourite childhood toy was a tractor with a trailer.

This was to be a gift for my grandson. However, how to make a tractor with steering?

Instead an articulated tractor much like a modern large farm tractor. The main hinge joining the front cabin to the rear engine drive unit was made with 5 overlapping layers of 3mm ply and a dowel hinge pin. A mechanism to allow the front and rear to rotate transversely over rough terrain. And single leaf spring style suspension for the rear axle. Of course it needed a hand carved farmer in an Akubra to drive.





I'm more than chuffed with 1st up against Alan's CNC spitfire and some amazing Road Graders by " ". Thanks to the committee for their hard work and support.
Too much fun.

CATEGORY B
2nd STEPHEN LANSLEY

This year's plank comp entry is a 28-road grader, free plan from Churchub - 2024.



Started out to make three graders each to a different scale from the original, eventually made four to use all of the plank.

The finish is in wood stain with a clear gloss topcoat.

One set of wheels was cut on the laser, two 3D printed sets supplied by Ian Rudd and the fourth set found in my workshop.



CATEGORY B
3rd ALAN RITCHIE

AEROPLANE



I thought I would try new techniques on the CNC for my plank competition entry.

I purchased a set of three-dimension files for a stylised mid-twentieth century aeroplane. I found I needed to resize the files to fit the plank. I then found the fuselage file was too high to be cut out on the CNC so had to work out a way to split that file into two pieces. I couldn't work out how to do this with our CNC software, and eventually did this using other web-based software. I then proceeded to cut out the parts using the double-sided CNC routing technique which had a steep learning curve. However, after some false starts which destroyed some of my original plank, I managed to get the parts finished using extra timber from club stocks.

The parts fitted neatly together making the assembly easy. The aeroplane was then glued up and finished using a White Knight satin silver spray paint. I needed about eight coats to get the finish I wanted, with sanding between coats.
I plan to make another aeroplane as I would like to see that I have learnt from this process.

CATEGORY B Other Entries

TOM CROUCHER RACING CARS & JEWELLERY BOXES





In accord with the wishes of the staff at Sydney Children's Hospital, that we also make something for the girls, I was able to make 4 Racings Cars and 3 Jewelry Boxes out of the one plank.

Making the wheels on the CNC Router. I have previously made toys with wheels before and either turned them on a lathe or purchased them. But as every other part of the racing cars were a realistic copy of a Formula 1 Car, I wanted them to look realistic. With the help of Alan Richie, we made the wheels on the club's CNC. That took some time, but we now have a template to create wheels.



Finishing each piece on time. I was determined to finish all 7 items before the day of the competition, but life conspired against me and I failed to finish the Jewelry boxes.
Not making mistakes. The jewelry boxes and the racing cars each presented their own challenges of attention to detail and needing care to avoid any mistakes. But I failed there too, and the choice became "Do I chuck that one and only make two jewelry boxes. I had gone too far to chuck one away, so there was a hasty and crude repair done.

Doing woodwork, and more so when making toys, is always a pleasure but this year was special. But this time there was one matter of special interest to me – the use of a simple spokeshave:

On the same job I was using a 21st Century CNC Router for the wheels and then shaping the body of the car with a spokeshave whose design has not changed for hundreds of years.
The last time this particular spokeshave was used was over 92 years ago and by my grandfather, who was a carpenter and builder. It gave me a special connection to the grandfather who died 15 years before I was born. It was a very special experience to hand-carve the wood with the same tool last held in my grandfather's hands.

Which one worked best

IN LOVING MEMORY OF PETER NEVILLE MOTT

We were saddened to hear of Peter's passing on 4th Sept 2026.

Peter was born in Dubbo in 1935, but lived in Riverwood for at least the last 30 years.

Like many members of the club, Peter grew up with no formal woodwork training, but did the usual household tasks like fencing and general repairs. As a long time Triton user, his early 1970's saw table served for many years, while Peter puzzled over how it could be improved (particularly the lack of a fence). During this period, Peter built the legendary skillion roof shed that used tilted uprights to achieve the right "look"! (Who said the leaning tower of Pisa didn't inspire other grand designs? Lashing out on a 2000 series saw table, Peter heard of the formation of a club at Oyster Bay, turned up at only the second meeting in 1998 and joined as member number 120.



Since joining the Club, Peter continued to develop his skills and was always happy to tackle larger scale projects. He really enjoyed the company of club members and was grateful we can all draw on the expertise of the more experienced members.

Peter was always the first to volunteer to help at Bunnings BBQs, Gymea Fair and other sales events and whenever maintenance work was required on the building. During the major renovations to the Workshop after the Club first acquired the lease in 2011, Peter became known as "Peter the Painter". He was affectionately known as the "Raffle King", his signature comment when asked to comment on raffle results at Committee meetings was always the succinct "All OK".

As if his woodworking skills were not enough, Peter's wife Barbara kindly sent a plate of small cakes on Committee days which always ensured a good attendance of committee members. She also made a Christmas cake every year for the Club's Christmas lunch.

Peter is remembered as a friendly and personable Club member whose take on life was always "No worries". He resigned as a member two years ago due to ill health (after a membership lasting over 25 years), and sadly passed away last week at the age of 91. Our sympathy has been conveyed to Barbara and the family. May he Rest in Peace.

COUNCIL GRANTS



On Friday 18 September, President, Gary Healey, and I attended a Sutherland Council function held in the Kirrawee Library where recipients of Council grants in the 2026 grants round were presented with an appropriate certificate. The audience was told that there had been 78 applicants for grants; of whom 48 were successful. The total grant funds to be disbursed amounts to approximately $500,000.



The certificates were presented by the former and, now newly current, mayor, Councilor Carmelo Pesce.

The grant applied for was for the installation of air conditioning in the Gallery. The installation will occur in the very near future.

Maurice Smith

RAINBOW WINDCHIME - FAMILY CO



Just sending you a wind chime that one of the children made, I think it was a few visits ago that they were donated but if you could share with your team that would be great." Jedda - Family Co

TOTEM POLE CARVING IN WESTERN CANADA AND ALASKA

Maurice Smith

My wife and I recently enjoyed an incredible holiday in the western part of Canada and Alaska. Although I kept a close eye out for anything woodworking related, I missed seeing anything of note with one exception.

Visit to Ketchikan

While we visited a wildlife reserve at Ketchikan to spot brown bears fishing for salmon, which was successful and enjoyable, our small tour group was directed to enter an abandoned sawmill. In the foyer of the mill was a 7-meter-long tree trunk laying on its side. It was a Western Red Cedar trunk. Beside that trunk stood 2 people with adze like chisels shaping the trunk into a totem pole.

Totem pole carving

The two are first nation members, one a master carver, the second his female apprentice who had recently joined the master when the opportunity had arisen. The carver explained the meaning of the elements of the totem pole and the tools they were using to shape the trunk.

The photo below shows the work in progress.



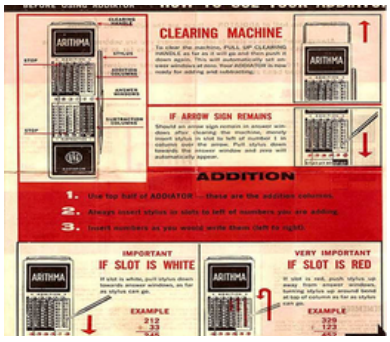
Large Slabs of timber





Upon leaving the sawmill foyer we entered the main body of the sawmill. There against the wall were l several slabs of local timber, as shown. These weren't little slabs; they stood over one meter tall.

ADDIATOR



With a box of donated tools was I found a Hema Slide Rule in its original box and in new condition. A number of our members remembered how to use it. It reminded me of the late 1960's when I joined General Electric, who sent me overseas for 6 months for training. They gave me a book of $100 Travellers cheques for accommodation, food and local travel. I had to fill out an expense sheet each week. In those days, a computer occupied an entire floor of a city building, and pocket calculators did not exist. To ensure my expense sheets were correct, I travelled with a pocket slide rule and an ADDIATOR, also known as a slide calculator. I still have my Addiator and I can show it and demonstrate how it works to anyone interested

Neil Matthews



To use an Addiator, insert the metal stylus into the notch next to your desired number and slide it down for white zones or up and around the curved track for red zones (carries).

Noticeboard

Safety Notice

Safety is the responsibility of every member of the club

Birthdays in October

05 Oct Anthony Boyd
06 Oct Simon Pike
07 Oct John Stanton
21 Oct Luciano Pacheco
31 Oct David Whitney



New Members

Justin Perry

Per Sorensen

Welcome

To Savour the Flavour

October Maxiday Nosebag

With a new "Miss Piggy" Heart Valve, thought it appropriate to celebrate with pulled pork, secret smoked rub, apple sauce and mandolin sliced coleslaw. All wrapped in one of Richard's crusty rolls.

Axel T

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.

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.

WATCHWORDS FOR OCTOBER

I went to the toy store and asked the assistant where the Schwarzenegger dolls were and he replied, "Aisle B, back".

"Feel Good" Happy Snaps









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

Comedy corner

Shire Woodworking Club





Scottish Golf Story

John, who lived in the north of England, decided to go golfingin Scotland with his buddy, Shawn. They loaded up John's minivan and headed north.
After driving for a few hours, they got caught in a terrible blizzard. So, they pulled into a nearby farm and asked the attractive lady who answered the door if they could spend the night.
'I realize it's terrible weather out there and I have this huge house all to myself, but I'm recently widowed,' she explained, 'and I'm afraid the neighbours will talk if I let you stay in my house.'

'Don't worry,' John said. 'We'll be happy to sleep in the barn and if the weather breaks, we'll be gone at first light.'
The lady agreed, and the two men found their way to the barn and settled in for the night.

Come morning, the weather had cleared, and they got on their way. They enjoyed a great weekend of golf. But about nine months later, John got an unexpected letter from an attorney. It took him a few minutes to figure it out, but he finally determined that it was from the attorney of that attractive widow he had met on the golf weekend.

He dropped in on his friend Shawn and asked, "Shawn, do you remember that good-looking widow from the farm we stayed at on our golf holiday in Scotland about 9 months ago?"

'Yes, I do,' said Shawn.
'Did you, er, happen to get up in the middle of the night, go up to the house and pay her a visit?'

'Well, um, yes!,' Shawn said, a little embarrassed about being found out, 'I have to admit that I did.'
And did you happen to give her my name instead of telling her your name?'

Shawn's face turned beet red, and he said, 'Yeah, look, I'm sorry, buddy I'm afraid I did. Why do you ask?'

'She just died and left me everything.'

(And you thought the ending would be different, didn't you?...

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

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March 2026 3

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29	30	31				

April 2026 4

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May 2026 5

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31						

June 2026 6

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28	29	30				

July 2026 7

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August 2026 8

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23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

September 2026 9

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27	28	29	30			

October 2026 10

S	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
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November 2026 11

S	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
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22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

December 2026 12

S	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
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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	