Shire Woodworking Club

SAWDUST & SHAVINGS

February 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

# February 2026 NEWSLETTER



## Excellence Awards 2025

Congratulations to all the entries with the following winners for each of the categories described below.

- Art Piece - Ray Bywater - A FIRE ENGINE *page 4*
- Furniture - Amber Johnstone - TAMBOUR CABINET *page 2*
- Utility - Ray Tregoning - CUTTING BOARD, TRIVETS & PLACE MATS *page 3*
- Overall Winner - Amber Johnstone *page 2*

## Future Guest Speakers

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"

## Maxi Day 14 February 2026

| | |
|---|---|
| 8:45 | Open Lilli Pilli Workshop |
| 9:00 | Monthly Meeting |
| 9:30 | Ian's Videos |
| 10:00 | Morning Tea |
| 10:30 | Guest Speaker: Terry Lancaster-Sydney Maritime Museum & wooden ships |
| 11:30 | Show & Tell |
| 12:00 | Lunch |
| 1.00 | Raffle Draw |
| 1:30 | Close |

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# Excellence awards 2025

## Amber Johnstone

### Winner of Furniture Category & Overall Winner

## MID-CENTURY TAMBOUR CABINET: A COMMUNITY-BUILT PROJECT



This mid-century–inspired tambour cabinet is the result of learning, generosity, and a shared love of woodworking. The project began as part of Will's HSC requirements, and from the outset it was clear that bringing such an ambitious timber piece to life would require support beyond the school workshop. With help from family and, most importantly, the Sutherland Shire Woodworking Club (SSWC), the project grew into a wonderful example of what a woodworking community can achieve together.



The cabinet carcass, stiles, and vertical inserts were made from American Cherry that has been in our family since migrating back to Australia in 2005. Unfortunately, years of incorrect storage had left the timber with a significant bow, presenting an early challenge. As jointers, large thicknessers, and lathes are no longer permitted in high school workshops, access to the SSWC machinery was essential. Members generously shared both their time and expertise to help prepare the timber correctly.

The SSWC CNC router was used to machine the tambour tracks and internal dadoes in the cabinet's top and bottom panels. Traditional mitre joints, reinforced with biscuits, glue, and plenty of clamps, were then used to assemble the main cabinet.

Each tambour slat was cut from rough-sawn Silky Oak using Rockler router bits, with Australian Red Cedar selected for the leading tambour. This proved to be the most time-consuming part of the build. Every slat needed precise machining on both front and back edges, cutting to length, rebating, and extensive testing to ensure smooth movement around the curved track corners. Custom jigs were built to hold the slats securely during filing and sanding. Once the fit was perfected, canvas was glued to the rear of the tambours using hide glue, chosen specifically so repairs can be made in the future if needed. Cherry stiles were fitted to each side of the cabinet to conceal the tambours when retracted.

The cabinet sits on Silky Oak wedges, cut at 11 degrees and fitted with threaded metal inserts. The legs are Australian Coachwood, repurposed from a vintage table sourced free from Facebook Marketplace. Hanging bolts were installed in the tops of the legs to attach them securely to the wedges. Internal shelves were made from Tasmanian Oak, and LED strip lighting was installed inside the cabinet to create a warm, relaxing atmosphere—perfect for sitting back with a book or some music.

The entire piece was finished with Osmo Poly-X oil. All components received two coats of Osmo Poly-X Clear Satin, with the exception of the carcass and stiles, which were first treated with one coat of Osmo Poly-X Tinted (Amber) to gently warm the Cherry, followed by a final coat of Osmo Poly-X Clear Satin for protection and durability.

This project would not have been possible without the kindness and skill of the Sutherland Shire Woodworking Club members. Special thanks go to Ian for his guidance and advice across almost every stage of the build; Alan for sharing his CNC expertise and demonstrating how plans move from concept to machining; Ray for teaching us how to recover from our inevitable mistakes, assisting with the cabinet glue-up, and restoring the vintage legs; Gary for patiently answering countless questions and sharing his table saw knowledge; and Bobby and Maurice for their constant encouragement and many practical tips along the way. Thanks also to the many others who shared advice, stories, and their invaluable experience.

With all this shared wisdom, Will documented the entire journey in a 60-page project record. Most importantly, together we created a truly beautiful piece of furniture that now takes pride of place in our home—a lasting reminder of what can be achieved when a community comes together around a workbench.

~ Amber Johnstone & Will Gygi

## Ray Tregoning
## Winner of Utility Category



## SMALL CUTTING BOARD



This board was made from leftover block material from all the 6 basket weave boards I have made this year. This board includes Merbau, American White Oak, Tasi Oak, Murray River Red Gum and some Black Butt squares all glued with some dominos here and there with Titebond III. It is oiled with food grade and bees Wax heated and sanded with 600g wet and dry sandpaper for about a week.

## FOLDING TRIVET



This is a copy of some that Axel made. I just tricked it up a bit by making it out of Australian Red Cedar with some Mountain Ash plugs for a nice colour input.
It is coated with Polycure Gloss, as usual.

## SMALL TRIVET



I had a small offcut from my handrail table top and thought it might be a good idea to turn into a trivet for the table.

So I just mitered some Red Gum and Plywood around the edges and coated with Polycure Gloss

## WATERS EDGE PLACE MATS




These place mats came from an idea I had for our building's Christmas Dinner which is held in our common room for all our residents. Each one of our building residents who attended our dinner (33) received a mat as a memento of the year's get together.
The centre engraving is a photo of the wall at the front of our building, Waters Edge Units 129-156, which I took and gave to Ian who placed it into the laser with the other images.
I used 3mm ply with pig skin splits leather glued to the back, which I engraved and cut out the shape on the laser.
After engraving I coloured them in with Posca pens and coated them with Anchor 100% gloss.

## Ray Bywater

**Winner of Art Piece Category**



## 1927 ROLLS ROYCE FIRE ENGINE



I decided to make this 1927 Rolls Royce fire engine from a model I found among my collection of Models of Yesteryear.
The body is made from rosewood and the ladder and screen etc. are from rock maple.
I spent a lot of time with the finish, particularly the underbody, and constructed the springs and hangers from strips of aluminium.
The wheels were a bit of a challenge. I had to make the tyres separate from the rims so I could paint them black and not have the paint leach into the rims. The spokes are made from kitchen skewers. Ray Tregonning made the headlights and Ian Rudd made the lenses, Ian also lazered the side panels.
I finished the model by fitting it with a cat's bell which I purchased from the 2 dollar shop

## Geoff Tong

## OPEN SEGMENTED TABLE LAMP





I used 1658 pieces of wood to create this table lamp.
Most of the wood is jacaranda and the dark contrasting timbers are cedar and red gum.
It looks a bit complicated but with the right jig it is quite simple once all the timbers have been prepared.
Unlike the traditional segmented projects where pieces of the ring are glued together and the rings are stacked up to complete the project. Open segmented projects require a small gap between each segments so each piece had to be glued individually and that is time consuming.
When applying the glue be careful not to used too much because excess glue will form a lump in the gap. Cleaning the excess glue will waste more time. Finish with three coats of polyurethane, light sanding between each coats.

## Richard Cain



## Cheese/presentation board



It was made for my two grandsons aged 19 and 21. It is made from Merbau and U S White Oak. It was completed by myself in three sessions. The handles are made in stainless steel obtained from kitchen cabinet maker - FREE

## Tom Croucher

## Jewellery Box






In June 2024, when I was living in Sylvania, a neighbour advised me that the tree in their front yard was being cut down. It was a good size so I thought I would find out what type of tree it was. When I heard that it was a Sycamore, I got a bit excited – good for furniture, fine grain, and nice colours. When the day came I took one look at the colours in the grain and asked the tree cutters to give me a couple of sections. As it turned out my only regret was that I did not ask for more and longer sections.

I sealed the ends with paint and 6 months later I cut the logs into 50mm slabs and let them dry out more. Although I would like to have it season a bit longer a granddaughter was turning 19 in December and the timber was so beautiful, with pink and brown colouring, it just said to me "Jewellery Box". So, whether she wanted one or not Alex was getting a Jewellery Box, with a Rosewood inlay for her name. The CNC Router does such a beautiful and perfect job of inlays – and makes me look like a good carpenter. To highlight the pink streaks in the grain I lined the bottom of the box and the tray with pink pig skin.



This was my third such box and I have gradually refined the design to make the job simpler. But the precision required makes the task quite challenging and accepting those challenges and using such beautiful timber makes all the effort worthwhile. And that is the very satisfying part of woodwork and why we keep coming back.

## Gary Healey



## Jacaranda Bowl Turning



After watching several YouTube videos I thought that I would have a go at it myself.
I started by cutting a log down the centre, as shown in the photo (that is the remaining piece shown on the right). I screwed the faceplate to the cut face and started turning the base of the bowl from the outside of the trunk. I turned a lot of the bark of but left enough to be shown on the outside of the bowl. I then turned the mortise in the base to suit my 3 jaw chuck.



I then turned the timber around holding it in the jaws of the chuck. From there I proceeded to turn the internal shape into the timber. I left the walls and the base thick to ensure it had sufficient strength for practical use, I made a previous bowl with thin walls and it cracked and a section came out.
I used Robert Sorby turning tools and with the timber being Jacaranda they had to the sharpened several times to stop tear-out and reduce the amount of sanding and to get a good finish on the surface. The finish is Anchor paints gloss lacquer, several coats, sanding between coats.

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## Special Note



## AXEL TENNIE

A life long friend of my better half & close family friend Swee Ng was given one of my scrap wood cutting boards for a birthday by Diane.

She liked it so much that she requested if I could make a few more as practical family Xmas presents .
She donated $150 to the club as a small thank you.

Photo: Diane presenting Swee with the boards.

Cheers
Axel

# Maxiday show & tell






## Peter Warren



## THE BLOODHOUND MUSIC SYSTEM

The Bloodhound All-in-Three is a Music Streamer, Amplifier and 2.1 Speaker system in 3 handcrafted solid timber boxes. The original design uses two horn loaded satellite speakers, however these closed satellite boxes are an 8 degree rhomboid shape made from a repurposed table top. The large box is made from spotted gum repurposed stair treads and houses the streamer, amplifier and a 125mm SB Acoustics subwoofer good down to 50 hertz. The streamer connects to wife via a mobile phone app to play Spotify or your preferred music subscription. It also supports Apple Airplay and Bluetooth. Peace, Love and music.

## Neil Matthews



## TOY ACROBAT



I was looking for a different toy for the Children's Hospital when Axel showed me a toy acrobat. I made one, but decided I needed an in-bed compact toy. So, on a little internet search I found these old toys. I made a prototype, and from that I discovered some problems and some necessary component sizes to make more. Most of the components are 10 x 12mm with a 7mm hole precision located at each end I didn't have a 7mm Brad point drill, so an engineer's drill can be a problem. To overcome this, I made a very simple jig from a scrap piece of 25 x 25 x 5mm angle and used the angle grinder to square-off the radius inside the angle. I then ground the end of the angle square and smooth. I then accurately marked out the end of one of my 10 x 12 components and held it in the end of the angle. I then lined it up with the 7mm drill and clamped the angle to the base board on my pedestal drill. When lined-up and clamped I drilled through the timber and marked the angle. I then took the timber away and drilled through the angle. Once this was done it is now possible to place the timber part, lined up with the end of the angle & drill with accuracy and no cleanup necessary.
This may be useful for others with the need for repeat accurate holes.
The timber used is Rahmin, a close-grained hardwood. My toy acrobats are not great, but I hope the kids get some joy out of them.



## NEEDLE CASE DESIGNS

## Ian Rudd








I have now extended the Needle Case design to include a small pair of scissors with additional space to house needles.







Here are a few of the items that have been printed on my newly acquired CD printer. The printer was an expected Christmas present from my Daughter and Son in Law. It was easy to assemble and then starting to make items from a suitable Website.

## TABLE TOP

## Roger Dixon



This club project came about from a request from my wife's friend to replace the old top of her daughter's existing aluminium frame.
The original intension was to split 90 x 45mm lengths of my own Victorian Ash stock into 90 x 22mm & join.
After discussing with Ian Rudd he suggested using one of the Tasmanian Oak table tops donated to the club by Cronulla RSL. Thanks Ian you saved me a lot of labour & glue.
I selected one of the table tops & cut to 700mm square. The underside had a large trench to accommodate a steel frame. This was filled & glued in with an off cut.
The corners were rounded then the edges were dressed using a small round over bit for the bottom & a larger bit for the top.
Filled holes with Plastibond & sanded ready for painting. Drilled 8 holes to line up with the frame & supplied new Stainless steel screws & washers

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## SWC Club project: Tapered Leg Repair





A customer called in to see if we could make him a new leg from this broken one.
Roger Dixon took a look & said that it was a fairly clean break & should glue back ok
The parts were glued together with Tite Bond 3 and clamped for two days before filling any remaining gaps with Plastibond & then sanding
Cedar stain was applied with a cloth but when wiping off the stain did no absorb into the grain.
I re-stained using a brush & then had to wait for a week before it dried enough for a light sand.
The finish was 1 coat of Danish oil to seal

# President's report Feb 2026



In January we had the judging of the 2025 Excellence Awards, and it was great to see so many high-class entries in the three categories. My congratulations to the winners, refer details in the newsletter.
We will be installing a new edge sanding machine in the workshop early in February and there have been some layout changes in the area near the double doors to accommodate the new machine. Induction sheets will be prepared and all members must be inducted on the new machine. The new machine will increase the sanding capacity with a 900mm long sanding belt.
To all members, please take care of yourself with the high temperatures that we have been experiencing lately, drink plenty of fluids and pace yourself. If you experience difficulties with the heat plan to come to the club on a cooler day.

Gary Healey
President

## Three Wise Men

On the twelfth day of Christmas Three Wise Men came from the east came to the Club and not one was bearing gifts. Ray T said he was not going to bring any of his Gold to share with club members. Ray B said there was no Frankincense in stock and Bob Q had no idea what Myrrh was used for.

They claimed they brought Wisdom and Knowledge to the club however there is no evidence to support that claim.

Ian Rudd






# From Our Family To Yours: Our 2025 Impact & What's To Come

Dear supporters and partners,

As we settle into 2026, I wanted to take a moment to say thank you. Your support during 2025 made a real difference to families in our area and shows what is possible when a community comes together with a shared purpose.

Last year, The Family Co. supported 13,675 individuals across Southern Sydney. We saw families move from crisis to stability, from isolation to connection, from surviving to thriving.

We did all this together - with the support of people and partners like you.

In today's update, I want to look back at our impact and share what's ahead for 2026. There's so much to look forward to, and I'm excited to keep you connected through these quarterly updates.

Warm Regards
Ashleigh Daines, The Family Co

Term 1 Programs Now Live

Our evidence-based programs for Term 1 are now live, offering trauma-informed programs that include parenting, DV support, playgroups, and Aboriginal programs across Sutherland Shire, St George, Georges River, and Bayside.

The full schedule can be viewed here.<https://thefamilyco.cmail20.com/t/d-l-gitjthy-hylriydddl-j/>

International Women's Day Brunch

Join us to celebrate IWD 2026 at Hazelhurst Gallery for an inspiring morning of connection and storytelling while supporting women and families in our community. High tea style brunch, powerful conversations, raffles and real impact.

Details and tickets coming soon.

We're expanding our thought leadership work in 2026, starting with the 3rd National Family Safety Summit<https://thefamilyco.cmail20.com/t/d-l-gitjthy-hylriydddl-t/> in Perth. Michelle Fairweather (Operations Manager) and Melissa Keane (Team Leader) will share insights from our evidence-based programs while engaging with national conversations on DV prevention, trauma-informed care, and family support. In 2026, we will look for opportunities to contribute to systemic change, both locally and nationally.
[https://i9.cmail20.com/ei/d/43/E6D/C3E/145217/images/b6274c793b31387fd71cd79504cad665.png]

More support, all under one roof

We will continue to extend our wraparound services as well as the areas we support. With the opening of the Hurstville hub, we now reach across Sutherland Shire, St George, Georges River, and Bayside. Our continual expansion of services has meant that we are now one of the only providers offering DV Support, Child, Youth & Family Services, Education & Prevention programs and bulk-billed GP care all under one roof. Our recent partnership with Family First Dental allows us to provide our clients with free children's dental care and other services. 2026 will grow these offerings even further with more partnerships to be announced soon.

Every family deserves a safe home, strong connections, and opportunities to thrive. That's not just our mission - it's our promise. And with your continued support, it's a promise we can keep.

# Safe practices

## SHIRE WOODWORKING CLUB Inc
## Using Makita Compound Mitre Saw

**Roger Dixon**

1. On/Off Switch operation

2. Dust gate operation. Automatic on start up & shut down

3. Dry run demonstration of sliding movement over full distance

4. How work piece must be positioned & aligned against the aluminium fence

5. How to cut to length against a stop on the left hand-side. Usually for pieces greater than 100mm

6. How to cut short pieces against a stop on the right-hand side. Usually for repeat pieces

7. How to set the depth for trenching cuts. Always flip the depth stop back to full cut after use

8. Table angle setting. Always do a dry run before cutting work piece

9. Saw angle setting for compound cuts. Always do a dry run before cutting work piece. PREFER NOT TO USE THIS FEATURE

10. General machine operation showing where clamps are used

11. How to leave the machine for next operator



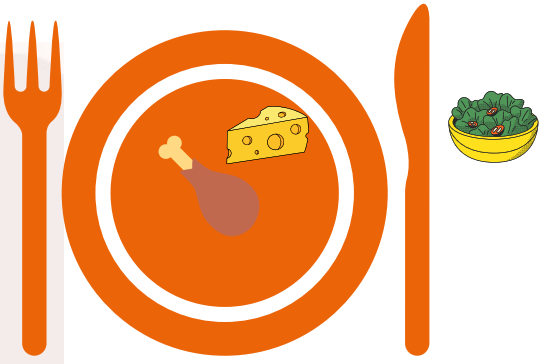

Note: Check second hand timber with scanner for metal fasteners

Note: Read safe work procedure sheet before signing induction form

The above list will be covered in more detail during the induction procedure together with a practical demonstration & then a hands-on practice by the inductee

## To savour your palate - Menu for February

Wessex saddle back ham,
Australorp honey soy drenched drumsticks
Bega sharp vintage cheese slices and
Accompaniments of a Green and bean salad



# Noticeboard

## Safety Notice

Safety is the responsibility of every member of the club

## Birthdays in February




| | |
|---|---|
| 2nd Feb | Les Symonds |
| 5th Feb | Gary Freitas |
| 8th Feb | Wanda Moura |
| 11th Feb | Brian McCarthy |
| 12th Feb | Peter Howard |
| 22nd Feb | David Johnson |
| 25th Feb | Graham Ethell |



This ship donated by a neighbour of the club, just requires some tender loving care to restore.

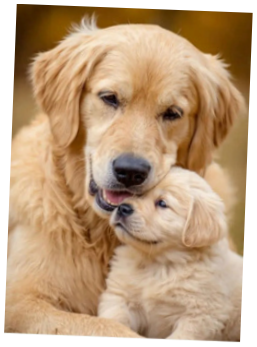
## "Feel Good" Happy Snaps





## 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.*



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

# Comedy corner

## Shire Woodworking Club









**"SENIOR HEALTH CARE!"**



"That too tight?"




"Is the lady coming back, sir?"






"We had to put a steel plate in your leg."






# Shire woodworking club 2026 calendar

| January 2026 | | | | | | 1 |
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| S | M | T | W | Th | F | Sa |
| | | | | PH | 2 | 3 |
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| February 2026 | | | | | | 2 |
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| March 2026 | | | | | | 3 |
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| April 2026 | | | | | | 4 |
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| May 2026 | | | | | | 5 |
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| June 2026 | | | | | | 6 |
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| July 2026 | | | | | | 7 |
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| August 2026 | | | | | | 8 |
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Your paragraph text

| September 2026 | | | | | | 9 |
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| October 2026 | | | | | | 10 |
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| November 2026 | | | | | | 11 |
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| December 2026 | | | | | | 12 |
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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<br>Richard Cain, Steve Lansley, Neil Mathews,<br>Ray Tregoning, |
| Equipment & Training | Roger Dixon, Ray Tregoning, Maurice Smith,<br>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 | |