Shire Woodworking Club

SAWDUST & SHAVINGS

May 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

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Editor: 0408 240 514 Website : https://shirewoodworking.com.au

May 2026

NEWSLETTER



Maxi Day 9 May 2026

8:45	Open Lilli Pilli Workshop
9:00	Monthly Meeting
9:30	Ian's Videos
10:00	Morning Tea
10:30	Michelle Fairweather-CEO (Interim) Family Co
11:15	Show and Tell
12:15	Lunch
1:15	Raffle
2:00	Close

Future Events

20th May - Woolooware Shores Sales desk

Plank Competition



Names have been received for entries with judging scheduled for next Sept. We now have plenty of time to complete something special. Good luck!

Future Guest Speakers

9th May - Michelle Fairweather CEO (Interim) Family Co

13th Jun - Exercise Physiologist TBC

11th July - Jennifer Gowen Travels in Afghanistan

10th Oct Don Parker - Steam Boats

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"

Show & tell

Alan Ritchie

OIL PAINTING DRYING RACK



My wife's art class are creating oil paintings. These paintings are created over three weeks and need to be stored between painting sessions. As the oil paints take a long time to dry, the paintings need to be stored in the classroom, so the paint is not smudged and paintings are stored separately. We designed a suitable drying rack for 12 paintings using laminated particle board for the base and 7mm wooden dowels for the uprights. One painting is placed between each set of dowels. The holes for the 26 dowels were custom drilled by the CNC to hold the dowels with a tight fit without the need for glue and base was cut to size on the CNC. The rack was widely appreciated by the art class and another custom sized one is to be made.

Custom step stool

My wife needed a step stool to reach items which were otherwise out of reach. I realised our CNC design program could design a box with dovetail joints and decided to design the step stool using the program.

This ended up with the step stool shown here. Dovetails were cut on the top and sides to hold the wooden pieces together. There are hand holds at each end to easily move the stool and the bottom edges were rounded over on the table router. I found the design resulted in some dovetails not fitting as well as I would have liked. When I use this box design program again, I now know what tweaks are needed to make tighter fitting joints. The step stool was finished with spray polyurethane. It works well and is being used often. If anyone needs any size dovetail joints that cannot easily be cut with the Gifkin dovetail jig, please see me and they can be cut on the CNC.

POLICE RESCUE TRUCKS

Gary Healey



Ian Rudd received a request from a member of the Police Rescue Squad to supply 13 replica trucks the club had supplied previously with individual names on each truck, I assume they were family members. The individual components for the trucks were cut on the laser and assembled.

Ian cut most of the components on the laser with various members assisting in the assembly of the trucks i.e. Alen, Bob and myself, Steve Lansley making extra components and there were others also involved.

Richard Cain

SERVING PLATTER

The platter is made from American Oak obtained from a local company, Budget Stairs. Alan Ritchie provided advice on the installation of the groove that is included in the perimeter. Bob Q provided ongoing advice. The unit was finished with several coates of food grade oil.



ANZAC MEMORIAL

Ray Tregoning



In our foyer at Woolooware Shores we usually put a small display for occasions like Christmas, Easter, Olympics and ANZAC Day. I made a little soldier last year with a few poppies around his feet. It looked good and people liked the display.
This year I had another idea for a stand with a bugler and soldier with backboard with Army, Navy and RAAF badges, the Ode and LEST WE FORGET laser engraved on the base.
Materials used:
The soldiers were cut from plywood and painted with Satin Black.
The base board is made from old studs of Oregon from my house at Como, edged with Australian red cedar from my collection – the face is engraved with LEST WE FORGET and gilded.
The feet are Hoop Pine.
The backboard is made from a slab of Camphor Laurel, sawn and book matched was obtained from a house in Jannali approximately 20 years ago.

SERVING TRAY MADE FROM RECYCLED ANTIQUE TIMBER

Neil Matthews



The centre panel is Australian Cedar salvaged from an old wardrobe donated to the club. The style of the wardrobe and the homemade nails give us an estimate of 150 – 175 years old.

The white Poplar Timber comes from a fallen Poplar tree from an avenue of Poplars planted around 1920 when the cement town of Kandos was established. The handles, some sort of red gum, come from a paling fence erected around 1960.



As a design feature, the handles extend to small feet. The tray is finished with a mix of mineral oil and bees' wax. I hope this serving tray will be a quick seller for the club.



President's report April 2026



A warm welcome to our new club members.

During April we received the approval of the DA submitted to the SSC for the installation of an air conditioning system for the Gallery, we are now waiting for the Councils Grants finalisation to proceed with the purchase and installation of unit.

The Committee is working through a State Government Grant application for funds to purchase more laser grade plywood. Please be patient while we work these issues.

Ian Rudd has laser cut the parts for 13 Police Rescue Trucks and supervised the assembly of the trucks. Thanks to those who assisted with the assembly. The trucks are complete and are waiting to be picked up by Police Rescue Unit hopefully we will get sone photos alongside the real thing.

There are some issues with machinery withing the workshop which we are working through at the moment:
1. The vacuum system on the Merka sander has failed. RD has sent the unit for repair. We have the vacuum unit from the Festo unit connected to the Merka sander

2. The construction site Sawstop saw is out of action with a faulty motor, the unit will be sent away for repair.
3. The guide bar clamp on the large Hammar band saw had the thread stripped, RD has since repaired the stripped thread. It is back in action.

Stay safe at the Club and at home.

Gary Healey
President

WHATSAPP

Last week we introduced WhatsApp as an additional means of communicating between members, eg if you want to know who'se coming on a given day or if you have a question you want to share with members. "Shire Woodwork Club".

We have invited most members who regularrly attend but if you want to be included contact the Editor.

It is easy and quick.



To Savour Your Palate

May Maxi Nosebag
A Chinese Dish with a Crout Twist

An antidote to aging fragility addressing men's health by targeting :
1 . Your dietary fibre for digestive health, gut bacteria & regularity.
2 . Carbs to sustain your energy outputs & toy making productivity in the workshop.
3 . Protein to power your metabolism & immune function.
Testimonials have also suggested it boosts Libido this is however subject to further scientific inquiry 🧐!!!
Cheers

The Catering Committee 

Australia's Biggest Morning Tea is a major annual fundraiser for the Cancer Council funding research, prevention and support services.

The Shire Woodwork Club is donating a few items towards the raffles to be held at the event I am attending on friday 5th June. Thank you to the members.....Jan



















BANDSAW MILLING

Tony Browne

At our last Maxiday Tony Browne presented his experience with a shocking fire that severly damaged his property in Kangaroo Valley. Tony then turned to Bandsaw Milling to repair his property.



In 2020 Jan 4th a very large fire passed through Kangaroo Valley destroying 27 buildings in my street and leaving my property like a moonscape. I had damage to sheds Tanks, Power pole and as I built to council fire codes and better only superficial damage to house and garage





I decided to rebuild my post and rail fence around my house .I was amazed how much the price of hardwood had become in timber cost so I did some research and purchased a saw mill for a 1/3 of that cost and cut timber from trees fallen in the fire. I had to learn to saw large logs that fell in the fire. ways to saw logs into lumber or planks using a portable sawmill. While there are many ways to do so, I generally used live sawing method but used , cant sawing, plain sawing or quarter sawing. The right technique will depend on a few factors including the type of timber being used, the desired grain pattern of the planks , size of log etc. About 100 m of post and rail ,I'm pleased. I have also built 3 beautiful tables , benches coffee tables ,cutting boards and hat racks like the one for sale at club and more from timber from farm.





OUTDOOR SETTING REPAIR PROJECT - Roger Dixon

This club project came from my neighbour Marco



He purchased this outdoor setting of table and 4 chairs about 3 years ago not knowing about the botched repair that recently gave way.

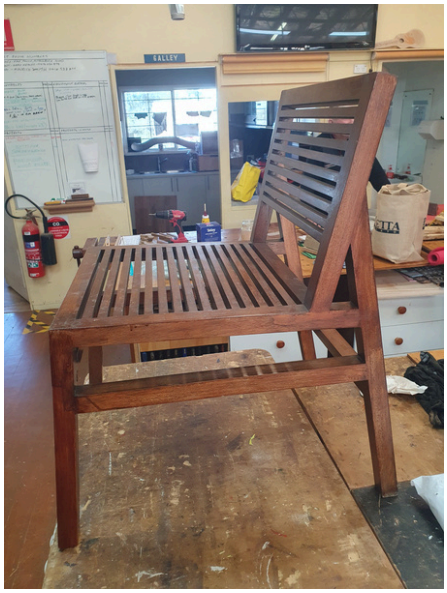
In consultation with Ray Tregoning it was decided to cut out creating a multi lap joint that he immediately started & I became a willing assistant. A new leg was then cut longer than needed & scribed to fit the new joint then matched & dry fitted. Holes were drilled into all faces of both sections to create multiple anchors then glued with 2 part epoxy epiglue & cramped for 5 days.





Joint then shaped with chisel then sanded before cutting to final length.
Finished with cedar stain/varnish then rubbed with 0000 steel wool to dull the gloss.
Customer was very happy with the result





SALES DESK AT BUNNINGS ON SAT 2 MAY 2026



We had a very successful morning at Bunnings. Our Sales desk was located at the store entry level which provided us with excellent customer opportunities. Lots of sales and exposure to a very impressed public. A good sales outcome.

Thanks to all club members who helped out on the day







Guest Speaker - April

Skipjack Survey and Assessment Programme

Bob Kearney



Our guest speaker was Bob Kearney. Bob is an accomplished author with a number of books to his credit including several books on fishing including 'Fishing in the good old days' and his second, presented on the day, providing a description and analysis of an enormous, revolutionary marine science research project on the truly extraordinary species of tuna, Skipjack. The results of this research catalysed South Pacific regional cooperation on the management of what has now become the world's biggest tuna fishery. They also greatly increased the understanding in Pacific Island nations of the importance of quality science to the management of the sustainability of the region's tuna resources, including the attainment of consensus on cooperative management of these resources under the new Law of the Sea that was emerging in the 1970s.

Bob has a science degree (Honours) from the University of New England and a PhD from the University of Queensland. His subsequent science and academic achievements were recognised by both universities by respectively, the award of a Doctor of Science from the University of Queensland (1985), based largely on the content of his book, Pacific Skipjack, and the Distinguished Alumni Award for 2010 (UBE). In 2005 he was made a Member of the Order of Australia in recognition of his contribution to fisheries and environmental research and management. He has 50 years of experience at a senior level of national and international fisheries and environmental research and management.

The design of the Skipjack Programme gave priority to the use of tag and release methodology to estimate the size and dynamics of the total skipjack resource in more than 30 million square kilometres of the South Pacific Ocean. The Programme worked in the waters of 25 different countries and territories, including Australia and New Zealand. Tag and release had never been used to determine the biomass of a tuna population anywhere in the world, let alone for what the Programme was able to determine, is the world's biggest tuna resource in the world's biggest ocean. Most fisheries scientists of the time thought that tagging could not be successfully used for this purpose, and certainly not over such a huge area. Most of the few who thought the concept had merit, believed it would be impossible to raise the $4 000 000 estimated in the author's proposal in 1975.

New Zealand was the first country to formally commit to funding the Programme, quickly followed by the other five countries listed above. The field work of the Programme ran for three years and included surveys of the skipjack and baitfish resources of all 23 Pacific Island countries and territories in the 30 000 000 square kilometres of the South Pacific Commission, plus the waters of eastern Australia and New Zealand.

The Programme tagged and released a total of 140 443 skipjack and 9 596 yellowfin tuna, including a world record for tuna tagging of 3 692 skipjack tagged in a single day (Chapters 12 to 18). In total enough tuna were tagged and released in excellent condition over a sufficiently wide area to result in adequate recoveries of tags with the necessary recapture information to enable the total skipjack population in the survey area to be determined to be 3 000 000 tonnes (the 95% confidence range being 2.5 to 3.7 million tonnes. Chapter 19). Fears for the sustainability of the skipjack resource have been eliminated by the results of the research described.

The amazing physical and physiological attributes of skipjack were measured by the Programme; most for the first time. These included, incredibly fast growth (skipjack are big enough, approximately 3kg, to enter the fishery at one year of age), extreme natural mortality (87% of the adult skipjack population dies each year from natural causes), fecundity (in tropical regions skipjack spawn six times a week, year-round and females lay approximately 300 000 eggs each time), and cannibalism (nothing eats more juvenile skipjack than adult skipjack do and skipjack juveniles are likely the major predator of skipjack eggs and larvae). The science behind how these attributes impact the sustainability and future resilience of this amazing, evolutionary-extreme species is described in simple language. How a sustainable harvest from the 3 000 000-tonne population can equal, or even exceed, 3 000 000 tonnes per year, is explained, for the first time in this book (Chapters 19 and 20).

The skipjack fishery in the Pacific is now of huge importance to most Pacific Island countries and territories, in numerous cases representing their primary source of financial independence and export income, in addition to being a major source of sustainable food for Island people. The economies of ten of the Island countries have been assessed to be 'tuna dependent': on average 37% of the taxable revenue in these countries is derived from the licencing of foreign boats to harvest tuna from their waters. Tuna fisheries and associated activities currently employ approximately 25 000 Pacific Island people (Chapter 21).

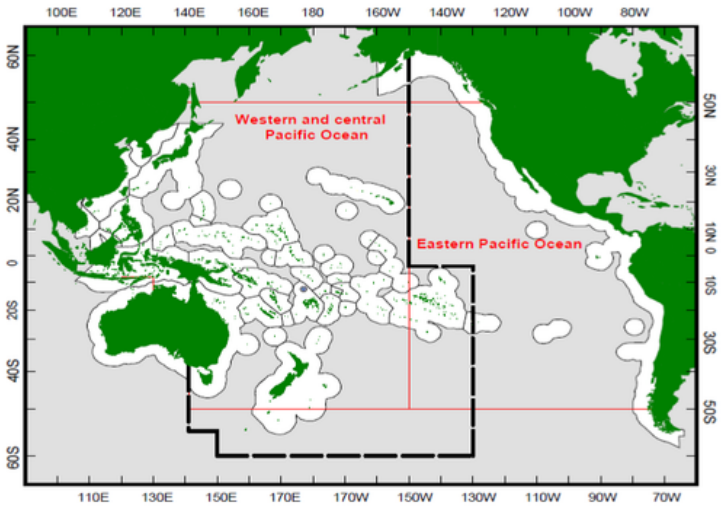
At the time of the emergence of the concept of the Skipjack Program, 1975, the annual catch of skipjack from the central and western Pacific was approximately 230 000 tonnes; in 2023 (the most recent year for which an accurate annual measure is available) it exceeded 1 200 000 tonnes valued at the first point of sale at $2.2 billion. The 1 200 000 tonnes of one species, skipjack, can be put in perspective by comparison with Australia's total annual commercial fish catch, all species combined, of 170 000 tonnes. The 1 200 000 tonnes is still a lot less than half of the maximum sustainable annual catch of skipjack anticipated in this book for the first time.

There are now four major international organizations in the central and western Pacific primarily concerned with the research and management of tuna fisheries, predominantly skipjack: The Central and Western Pacific Fisheries Commission, The Pacific Community (formerly the South Pacific Commission), The Forum Fisheries Agency and The Parties to the Nauru Agreement. All are dependent upon current research and fisheries statistics that flowed, and expanded, from the Skipjack Programme. Skipjack in the south Pacific are not over-fished, and over-fishing is not occurring. The South Pacific skipjack fishery is acknowledged to be the best managed tuna fishery in the world (Chapter 21) because that management is based on science that has been proven to be correct.

The Skipjack Survey and Assessment Programme commenced in 1977. It began a commitment to tuna research at the SPC that continues to the present day. In 2026 tuna research at the SPC (now called the Pacific Community) has 80 staff and an annual budget of approximately 25 million dollars (Chapter 21).







The Central and Western Pacific Fisheries Commission Area

Noticeboard

Safety Notice

Safety is the responsibility of every member of the club

Birthdays in May

6 May	Nader Ghazi
16 May	Luke di Palma
24 May	Bob Davis

Raffle winners April

1st	Geoff Tong
2nd	Ray Tregoning
3rd	Graham Ethell
4th	Alan Stubbs

Buy Swap Sell

There is an older but fully workable Bansaw that has been on display. It will be removed this week.

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.

New Members

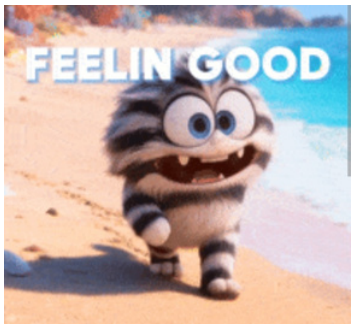
Greg Barrell

"Feel Good" Happy Snaps







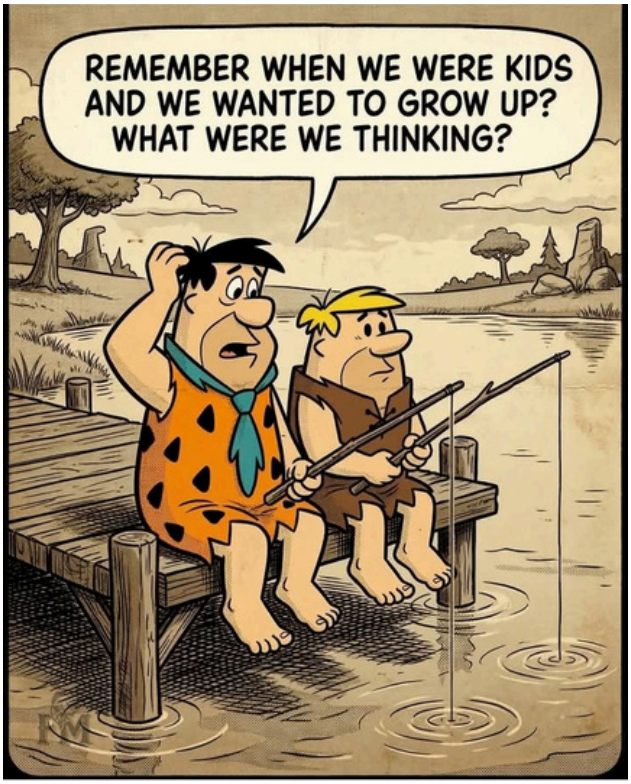


If you have any “feel good happy snaps” send them to the editor

Comedy corner

Shire Woodworking Club

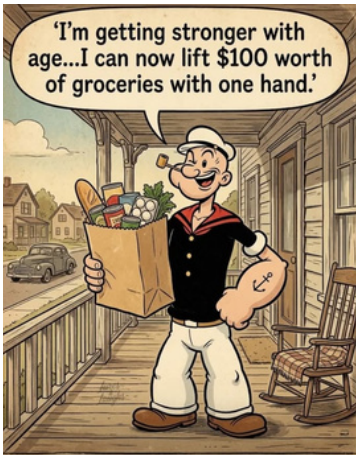








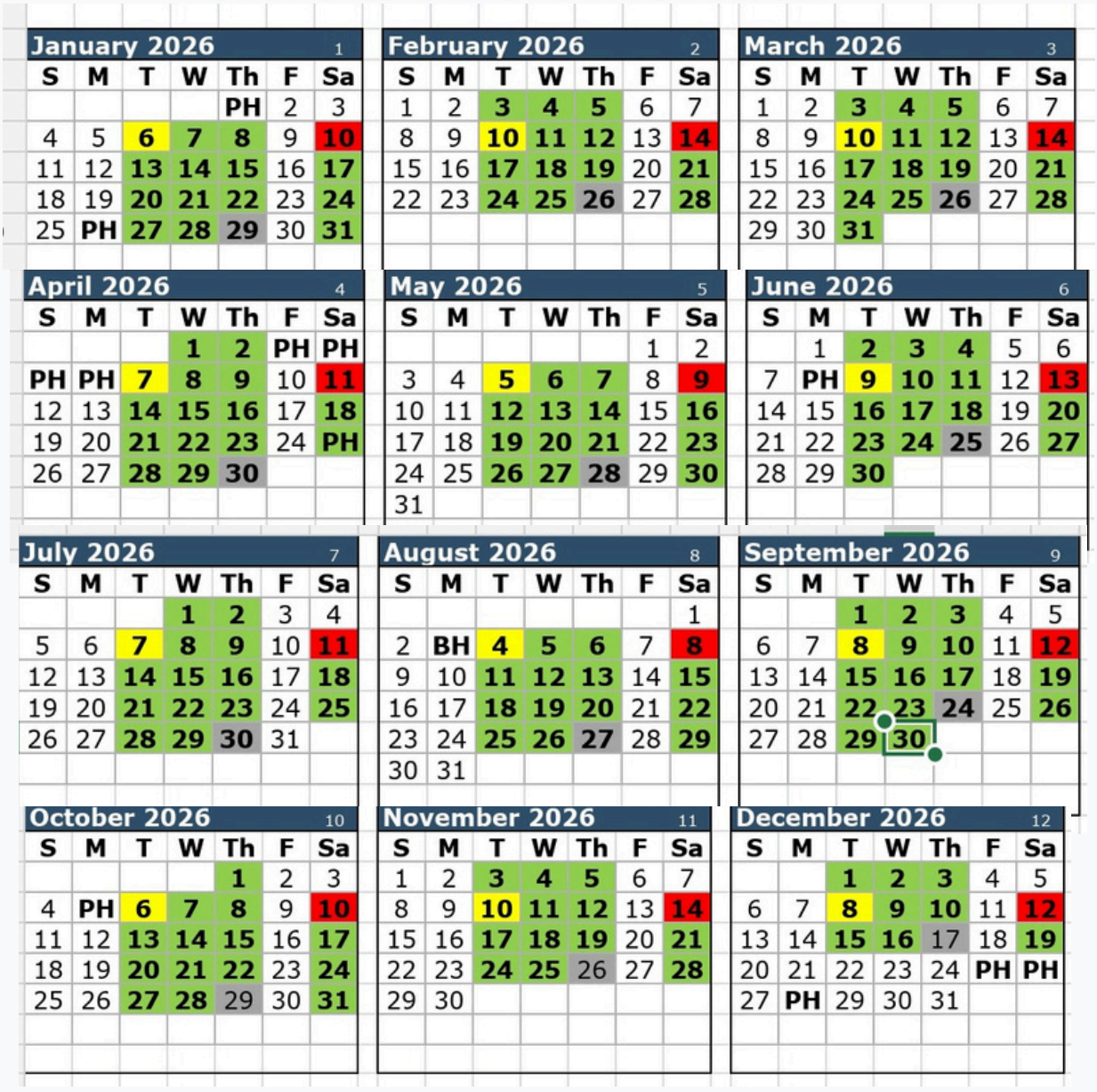








Shire woodworking club 2026 calendar



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
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	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
					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
31						

June 2026						6
S	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	PH	9	10	11	12	13
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
			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	31	

August 2026						8
S	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
						1
2	BH	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	31					

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	