Shire Woodworking Club

SAWDUST & SHAVINGS

June 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

June 2026

NEWSLETTER





We have generously donated Axel's Water Mill and David's Farm House to the lower campus of Lilli Pilli School. They appreciate our efforts, and we are actively engaging in discussions with the school to promote the continued development of toy deliveries, in alignment with our commitment to existing community groups, such as the Children's Hospital and Family Co.

Future Guest Speakers

11th July - Jennifer Gowen
Travels in Afghanistan

8th Aug - Adam Schreiber - Manager Security Long Bay Jail

10th Oct - Don Parker - Steam Boats

Maxi Day 13 June 2026

8:45	Open Lilli Pilli Workshop
9:00	Monthly Meeting
9:30	Ian's Videos
10:00	Morning Tea
10:30	Brent Collier-Exercise Physiologist
11:15	Show and Tell
12:15	Lunch
1:15	Raffle
2:00	Close

Guest Speaker - Brent Collier June 2026



Brent is an Accredited Exercise Physiologist and Director of Peak Health and CanRecover. With over 20 years of experience helping people stay active, healthy and independent, Brent has a particular interest in men's health, healthy ageing, chronic pain, arthritis management, joint replacement rehabilitation and cancer recovery.

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



David Johnson

This is the twin cutting board to the one I showed previously. The pattern for the cutting board is called Mr. Bobby from cuttingboarddesigner.com. The dark brown timber is likely to be Turpentine from my next-door neighbor's old window sills, cut into strips: 1 strip of 45mm and 5 strips of 30mm wide. The light-colored timber is Tassie Oak, cut into 5 strips of 15mm wide. The Tassie Oak was turned to expose the end grain. These strips were then glued together and cut again across the short side, and every second piece was turned end for end. They were then glued and sanded again. The board was finished with food-safe mineral oil and bee's wax.

RECTANGULAR SEGMENTED CUTTING BOARD



Ken Brunker

No 1. The Camphor Laurel flip-top box was made from a single block of timber selected for the color and grain. As I always say, "follow the grain." When worked right, it gives a good effect in the finished product. This was sanded down to 600 wet and dry, then coated and rubbed back with Howard's Feed and Wax, left to dry out, and then rubbed back with Wet and Dry up to 1000, giving a light rub back with the Feed and Wax in between.

The 2nd box is one that I made for Lyn out of the Tasmanian Sassafras, one that she likes, which in my mind won the pick of the Tassie Timbers. It is easy to work with close grain, and if you are lucky, you might find some of the black stain that features sometimes through the wood. I have cut a board down from 25mm to 2 x 10mm, using the offcut for the base. This enables you to spread the black stain to select the best of it. Joined by simple Dovetail joints, it gives a great result.

The 3rd item I brought in just to show that you should never knock back a gift of wood, as you can't be sure of it until you cut and work on it and see what comes out. This particular piece was given to me by Tony Brown from his property in the Southern Highlands after bushfires went through. This Stringy Bark has a very close grain indicating slow growth, with lovely patterns throughout. I made a lovely chopping cum serving board for my eldest granddaughter. It is heavier than it looks. I glued 2 pieces together to get the required width, and with the soft wavy grain, it all blended well. Thanks to Tony, I will always accept his old firewood anytime.

CAMPHOR LAUREL BOXES







NEST OF TABLES

Richard Cain



I made the tables from Spotted Gum. The glass tops were made using 5mm smoked “float glass.” All joints were domino connected, and all table pieces and joints were made exactly the same to facilitate assembly. Ray T’s advice was, “keep the measurements constant.”

The tables were finished using food-grade oil and beeswax. The tables were made for my grandson (to be checked).

(The tables represented an excellent standard from Richard.)

Neil Matthews

TOAST TONGS & TOYS

This is my 4th or 5th batch of toast tongs, so I thought I’d let you know how they're made. They need to be made in a batch, so first you need some good hardwood. This batch and the previous batch come from “dunnings,” the 70x70x1200 hardwood that supports products on trucks so the forklift can get under the product to unload the truck. This timber is then trimmed on the table saw and cut into 25 x 19 strips. The strips are then cut to 180mm lengths. This gives a theoretical 36 blanks if the wood is okay.

The next requirement is a drilling jig made out of scraps of 3 pieces of hardwood. This is then clamped to the table of a pedestal drill after it is carefully aligned with a 19mm Forstner bit. This alignment is exactly dead center of the blank, 30mm from the end. The 19mm hole is then drilled through the blank and about 10mm deep into the hardwood jig. All of the next holes will be exactly aligned and will not have any breakaway chips.

The next job is to round over the end of the blank on a disk sander. The next job is to set up the band saw edge guide. This is set so that the saw will cut exactly to the edge of the 19mm hole.

This should give a tong thickness of about 2.5 mm. The next step is to use a spindle sander to clean up this cut. When you achieve an acceptable finish, the next step is to round over the ends, followed by tapering the ends of the tongs to make the product easier to use. I’m lucky; I can do this on my linisher, but hand sanding is also okay. I finished off the toast tongs by wiping them over with a cloth soaked in mineral oil.



In making this batch of toast tongs, I was left with 32 offcuts. Not to waste these, I cut the ends off and glued them together to make a cutting board. There was no preparation of these offcuts that were glued together straight off the saw. I think with the contrasting white Rahmin edge, I hope it will be a saleable result.

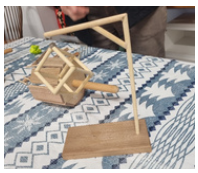


Toys for the Hospital



2 x Wooden Xylophones We have had these gongs before, but these are for kids to use in bed with just one hand.
A wooden block that could be used with a music group. I have seen good music accompaniment made with just two tones.
4 x Propeller sticks. The propeller rotates when the stick is rubbed across the grooves.
Note, a finger needs to be in contact with the side of the stick to make the propeller rotate.
I hope the kids enjoy.
For the Gallery, a Floating box on a length of fishing line suspended by magnets.





David Edwards

LAPTOP COOLING TRIVET (PAD)







I use my laptop all the time at home, and it is plugged into its charger almost permanently. To keep it cool, for the past couple of years I've had it propped up on a few timber coasters to allow better air circulation. But recently, I thought there must be a more elegant solution, particularly given my improving expertise with the CNC Router.

So, I came up with the idea for this cooling trivet or pad. It's made of scrap pine glued up to form a panel and then machined on the CNC to a size specific to my laptop. Firstly, I created a pocket tool path on top using a ½" End Mill bit to form the edges that contain the laptop, which were strategically placed to allow peripherals to be plugged in as necessary. Secondly, I used a profile tool path following vector lines to mill the cooling channels with a ½" Ball Nose bit. This profile tool path was repeated on the bottom of the pad, but with the vectors at 90 degrees to the ones on top. Where the top and bottom cooling channels crossed, through holes were created, thereby forming the cooling paths and allowing air to be drawn in and up, and circulated around the bottom of the laptop.

It looks good and sits neatly under the laptop on my desk, and it seems to work extremely well. The timber is finished with Anchor Polyurethane Satin Spray.

Gary Healey

SINK TOP CUTTING BOARD

The need: more bench space.
Can we have a cutting board that drops into the left-hand side sink? Yes, we can.
Can we have a hole in the board for a strainer? What type of strainer? To catch the scraps so they don't fall into the sink... okay. I located the appropriate strainer.
I used pine and Tasmanian oak (I think). I used a small hand router to rebate the edge to fit into the sink and then cut the hole for the strainer, adding a rebate around the top of the hole to allow the scraps to be pushed into the strainer. A flat surface across the board.
We need a water groove to stop water running off the board and onto the bench. Alan was a big help with the CNC router and saved me a couple of hours; the groove also helped with lifting the strainer out.
I coated the board with food-grade mineral oil and beeswax, applying a couple of coats over a couple of days.
The board and strainer work well and have solved a problem.



Ian Rudd



As a Christmas gift this year, I received a Bambu Lab 3D Printer from my daughter and her family. It was relatively simple to assemble with the aid of YouTube Assembly Videos, and by Boxing Day it was up and running. There are a number of sites on the internet where you can download files directly to the printer, and without understanding how it all works, after pushing the Start button, you wait a while as the item is made one layer at a time. It has been ideal for making toys, as there are literally many thousands of designs ready to be made. There is a huge selection of colored filaments available, and these can be purchased locally or online. There are many designs of items that can be made that are useful in the workshop, and we already have some tools made for the club.

3D printed Toys

There were a number of 3D printed toys supplied to Sydney Children's Hospital Randwick as an additional delivery. This batch included a number of different racing cars along with some baby cradles complete with pillows and blankets made by my wife, Donna. Lots of different colors and designs.











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Maxiday

May 2026

President's report June 2026



A warm welcome to our new club members.

The presentation by the CEO of Family Co., Michelle Fairweather, was well received at the Maxi-Day event.

In May, the club had a sales desk at Woolooware Shores Village, which was a good event for the club with sales over $700.00 and a lot of interest in our work. Well done, team: Ray, Roger D, Dave, and Tom.

The Merka and site Saw-stop machine are back in operation.

During May, we had a couple of incidents with the Saw-stop machine, with the cartridge being set off. No injuries reported. Please use caution when using the machine, and if you have concerns about your process, don't be afraid to ask for help. This goes for all machines. Member safety is everyone's responsibility.

The plank competition is underway, so anyone wishing to participate in the competition, please collect your plank and get started.

Reminders:
· If in doubt, ask.
· Please switch off the machine and clean it down when you finish your work.
· Safety starts with you.

Gary Healey
President

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.



GETTING TO KNOW US



Alan Hendry

Born on 6th December 1931 - PORTSMOUTH, ENGLAND.

During World War II in 1941, I was evacuated to the village of Fairoak where I spent two years going to school in the mornings one week and afternoons the next week, and I slept in a Morrison Shelter, which was erected in the dining room. After two years, I went back to Gosport where I returned for a further two years of schooling. At age 15, I joined the Royal Navy as a naval apprentice and was supplied with travel documents to go to the shore station in Cornwall, where I was issued a uniform and a pay of 6 shillings per fortnight.

For the next two years, I was taught the use of lathes and shaper machines. In the foundry, we made our own chisels for use in the various workshops, which included sheet metal, soldering, and welding. To this day, I still possess some of the items! I was then moved to the air station in Arbroath, Scotland, where I worked on various aircraft and became experienced in normalizing and annealing metal, including riveting and fabric sewing and doping. Upon completion, I was sent to an air station in Southeast England to work on various aircraft.

During my time in the Navy, I was stationed on various squadrons of both fixed-wing aircraft and helicopters. With the helicopters, I went to the Arctic Circle for experiments on sonar deflections due to temperature and water pressure, and to Belfast, Northern Ireland for anti-submarine exercises. On the fixed wing, I worked on various aircraft carriers, where the pilots were learning to practice landing.

During my time in the Navy, I witnessed the spectacular Home Fleet meeting the Mediterranean Fleet and also the flyby of the Fleet Review on the Solent River for Queen Elizabeth II.

After 10 years, I bought myself out of the Navy to take up a contract with Bahamas Helicopters in Sarai, Borneo, who were supplying crew changes to the offshore oil rigs. My next move was to Helicopter Utilities in Papua New Guinea, who were supporting Australian petroleum companies to fly in oil rigs into the jungle. We flew in a Catalina flying boat to the mouth of the river where we were transported in dugout canoes to the base camp.

After finishing with Helicopter Utilities, I went to their operation in Karachi, Pakistan, where we were on contract to vacuum oil for exploration using Bell 47 helicopters. While there, I paid 5 rupees to become an "alcoholic," which enabled me to buy gin and beer at the government outlets. Being one of the few expats, I was invited to the Garden Party for Queen Elizabeth II.

My next job was to England to pick up two helicopters to do North Sea offshore oil surveys for Shell Oil. The reason they used helicopters was because of minefields in the North Sea and the explosives and sea mines.

On returning to the UK, we used the helicopters to assist in the erection of power line towers from the Dungeness Power Station. I joined Bristow Helicopters on a 1-year contract in Port Harcourt in Nigeria.

Crowley Airways of Lae, Papua New Guinea, offered me a position to set up helicopters to assist their fleet of Cessna and Piper aircraft. During that time, I was in Honiara, Solomon Islands, as a lead engineer to service the Queen Air aircraft.

After two years, I joined World Wide Helicopters as a field engineer. In the 1960s, I flew to Doha, Qatar, in an S-62 Helicopter to replace Bristow Helicopters on offshore oil crew changes. I returned to Australia as a field engineer, where I spent the summer season in Antarctica on board the Nella Dan, which was used for Antarctic surveys. On my return, I was offered the position of Engineering Manager for Airfast (formerly) Helicopter Utilities, which I accepted.



Airfast was the 2nd biggest helicopter company in the world, with over 100 aircraft in its helicopter fleet. Operating across Southeast Asia, Papua New Guinea, and Australia, the operations included cattle mustering, rice planting, and Victorian oil exploration and crew changes. Cyclone Tracy damaged some of the aircraft in the Darwin Hangar. We also initiated the first surf rescue using a Bell 47 helicopter on flights at North Cronulla. It was later taken on by Westpac Bank. Airfast was then liquidated due to the owner using earnings to support his agricultural business.

My next position was managing the Ansett General Aviation engine overhaul shop at Bankstown Airport. After that, I spent time at Rex Aviation assembling Cessna aircraft that were shipped in crates from the USA. I joined John Cameron Aviation, servicing helicopters for the TV stations and Dick Smith's helicopter. Hawker De Havilland was my next employer, who transferred me to Hawker Pacific as a Tech Rep for Allison turbines and for converting Bell 47 helicopters from piston to turbine engines. These helicopters went to the Indonesian Military. I accompanied the top Chinese aviation principals, which ended with Qantas obtaining the overhaul of JP Nine engines.

Coming back from annual leave, I was handed a congratulations letter of thanks for my 10 years of service and an invitation to dinner, and on the other hand, I received a retrenchment letter. My final employment was with Heli New Guinea in Madang, PNG, for two weeks, which turned out to be two years, with one month off. After that, I retired. Now I spend time with my wife, daughter, and grandchildren, who keep me busy 'doing jobs' that only grandpas seem to be able to do.

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SALES EVENTS

Woolooware Shores 20th May

In May, the club set up a sales desk at Woolooware Shores Village, which turned out to be a successful event for us. There was considerable interest in our work. Thanks to the team: Ray, Roger D, Dave, and Tom!



Bunnings 6th June

We had another sales desk effort at Bunnings on 6th June. Turned out to be slow start given it was winter and a long weekend. However, turned out to be excellent returns. Big thanks to Maurice, Gary, Ray B and Roger W. We now need to replenish our toy inventory.



To Savour The Flavour

June Maxiday Nosebag

Handmade ‘Snags’ Barbecued by in-house chef Ray T. Then marinated in age-fermented satay sauce.

(Peanuts ‘sauced’ from the Kingaroy Bjelke-Petersen estate, personally hand-harvested by Flo) Crusty French wholemeal roll to envelop your snag, ‘sauced’ by Richard C. and finished with a dusting of mandolin-shaved vintage cheddar by Ray T.

Malcolm Armstrong Milgun Uzunlar

Axel

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Hawkesbury AG College (HAC) Old Boys Reunion - Axel Tennie

A montage of photos from the 56th HAC Reunion night, which raised funds for the club's toy-making initiatives benefiting Randwick Children's Hospital, along with Gary's heartfelt thank-you letter.



Shire Woodworking Club

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Phone 0414 538 475

19 May 2026

Dear Tony,Col,and all the "old boys" and partners at your recent reunion,

On behalf of the Shire Woodworkers, the Starlight Foundation and the Randwick Children's Hospital cancer wards, please pass on our heart felt gratitude for your very generous support

100% of all your donations will be invested into our ongoing toymaking and personalised request items from the hospital for the kids to take home on discharge.

And from time to time we also embark on left field requests like MRI machines which I believe Axel explained to you all at the reunion.

Once again, THANK YOU one and all for your generosity.

Kind regards
Gary Healey
President - Shire Woodworking Club Inc
www.shirewoodworking.com.au







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FUTURE EVENTS

Plank Competition

Names have been collected for entries, and judging is set for next September. We now have ample time to create something truly special. Best of luck to everyone!

Guest Speaker - May

Michelle Fairweather - CEO Family Co



Thank you again for having me at your meeting earlier this month. Below is a paragraph summary of the presentation for your newsletter, please let me know if you need any further information or would like it to be expanded on further.

The Family Co. is dedicated to supporting the safety and wellbeing of children, young people, women and families, with the belief that every family deserves a safe home, strong connections and opportunities to thrive. Based in Jannali and Hurstville, The Family Co. supports families across the Sutherland Shire, Georges River, Bayside and beyond through a range of programs, including domestic and family violence support, casework, advocacy and court support, child, youth and family support, parenting assistance, playgroups, mentoring, school and community outreach, educational programs and prevention initiatives.

We also deliver important services such as Therapeutic Domestic and Family Violence Services, Women's Domestic Violence Court Advocacy Service, Staying Home Leaving Violence, Intensive Family Preservation, school wellbeing programs and holiday workshops. We receive approximately 300 to 400 referrals each month across our range of services. We would like to sincerely thank the Sutherland Shire Woodworking Club for its ongoing support and generosity to our service, the donated toys bring joy and happiness to many of the children and families we support.
I hope you have a wonderful weekend. Kind Regards, Michelle

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GRANTS APPLIED FOR - 2026

Maurice Smith - Club Secretary

Each year, various government and commercial organizations offer grants for various purposes. The Club has previously applied for and received grants. Several significant pieces of equipment that the Club has installed were purchased entirely or mostly with grant funds. These items include: a dust extractor, a laser cutter/engraver, a CNC router, and solar panels on the workshop roof.

This year is no different; we have submitted one grant application, and another application is a work in progress.

NSW Government Grant
The one application submitted is to the NSW State Government. The grant is called the Community Building Program (CBP). In each state electorate, an amount up to $400,000 is distributed to community groups. The State Electorate in which the Club is located is Cronulla; our electorate government member is Mark Speakman.

This year, the process for applying for a CBP grant is in 2 parts; the first part that we have lodged is called an Expression of Interest.

By the end of June, we will hear whether our grant application has succeeded, and we will be invited to submit the second part of the application.

This year, the criteria for the grant also changed; applications may only relate to:
· Building works
· Acquisition of motor vehicles
· Acquisition of equipment.

Our application relates to the final category, namely the replacement of our Laser Cutter/Engraving machine, which we acquired 8 years ago. Just for your interest, the application form is about 9 pages long. Most of those pages contain instructions on what is required to be provided for each question and the response to each question. All the work is done via the internet.

IMB Bank Grant
The grant application is currently a work in progress and will be submitted by mid-June. It has been 8 years since we previously received a grant from IMB Bank. The grant application that we will submit relates to the purchase of a large supply of laser-ready plywood. The application recipients will be advised in October 2026.

Notice board

Safety Notice

Safety is the responsibility of every member of the club

Birthdays in June

- 05 June Ray Tregoning
- 06 June Geoff Tong
- 09 June Octavia Barrington
- 12 June Gary Healey
- 13 June Rob Steege
- 18 June Roger Walsh
- 22 June Robert Leake
- 26 June Michael Slader
- 29 June Tony Cauchi
- 29 June Max Abeleven
- 30 June John field
- 30 June Richard Wright

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.

Neil discovered these cabinet hardware pieces while organizing the storeroom. They are all available for sale with a small donation.



Raffle winners May

1st David Edwards
2nd Alan Hendry
3rd Richard Cain

Important Notice

- ***Attention Everyone:****

Please refrain from placing any plywood or timber that has paint or coatings into the bag at the dropsaw, as it is designated for firewood use.

"Feel Good" Happy Snaps



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

Best puppy pile





Comedy corner

Shire Woodworking Club





Paddy and Mick were walking along a street in London. Paddy looked in one of the shop windows and saw a sign that caught his eye. "Suits £5.00 each, Shirts £2.00 each, trousers £2.50 per pair".
Paddy said to his pal, "Mick look at the prices! We could buy a whole lot of dose and when we get back to Ireland we could make a fortune.
Now when we go in you stay quiet, okay? Let me do all da talkin' 'cause if they hear our accents, they might think we're thicko's from Ireland and try to screw us. I'll put on my best English accent."
"Right y'are Paddy, I'll keep me mouth shut, so I will. You do all da business" said Mick.
They go in and Paddy said in a posh voice, "Hello my good man. I'll take 50 suits at £5.00 each, 100 shirts at £2.00 each, and 50 pairs of trousers at £2.50 each. I'll back up me truck ready to load 'em on, so I will."
The owner of the shop said quietly, "You're from Ireland, aren't you?
"Well yes," said a surprised Paddy. "What gave it away?"
The owner replied, "This is a dry-cleaners."

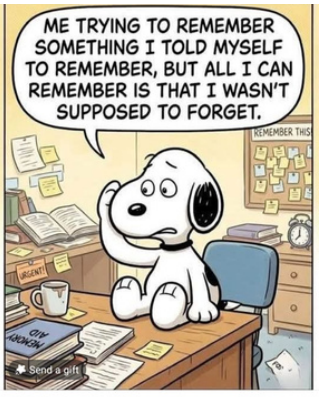




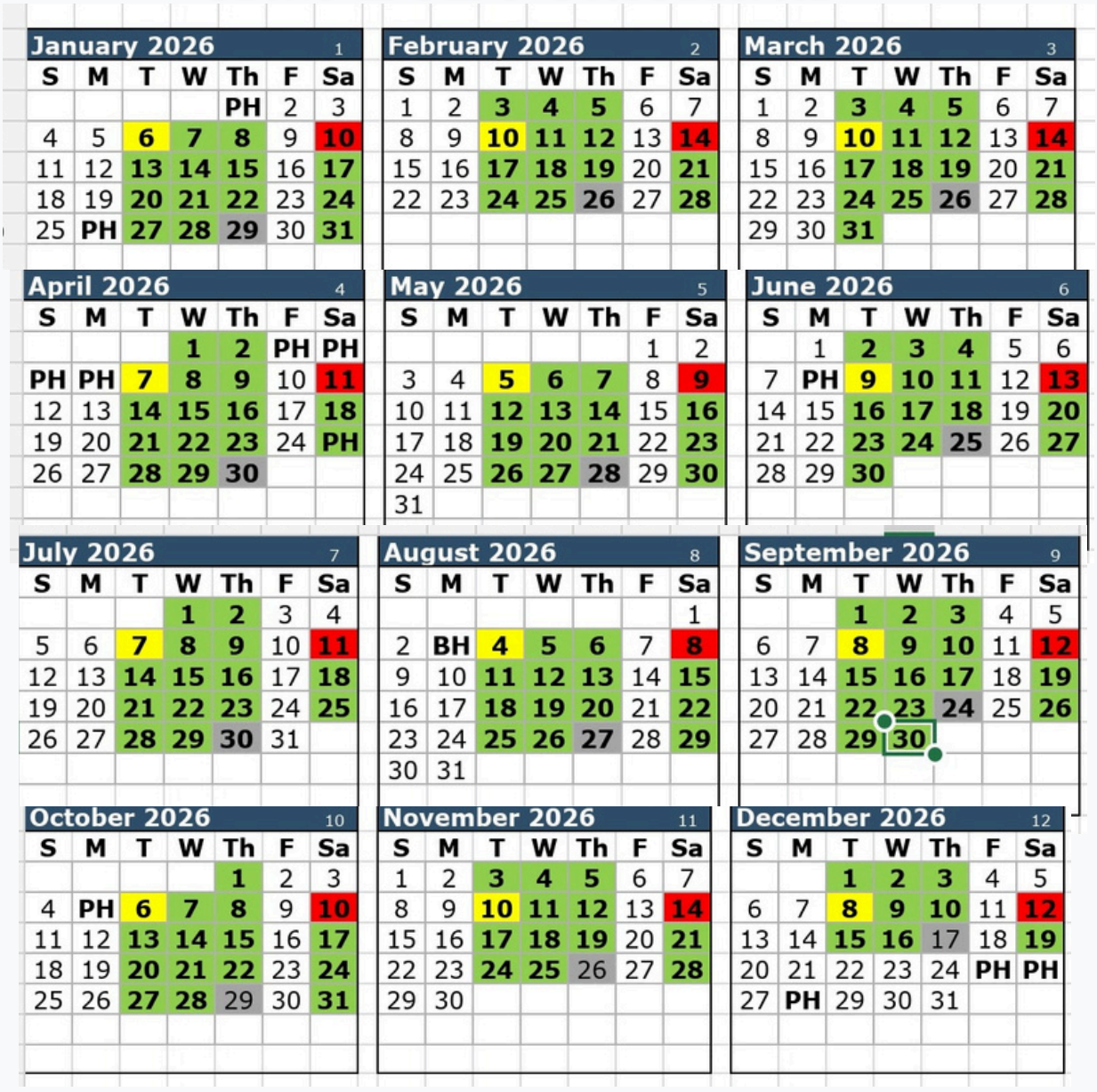








Shire woodworking club 2026 calendar



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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April 2026						4
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PH	PH	7	8	9	10	11
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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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30	31					

September 2026						9
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October 2026						10
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18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

November 2026						11
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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	