

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>



December 2025



Our **Christmas Party** December Maxi Day. Help us get in to the Christmas spirit and enjoy the festive feast. Hope you can all attend, wives and partners all welcome. **Let us know if you are coming for catering.** See menu page 9.



Maxi Day 13 December 2025

8:45	Open Lilli Pilli Workshop
9:00	Monthly Meeting
9:30	Ian's videos
10:00	Morning Tea
10:30	Show and Tell
11:30	Christmas Party
1.00	Raffle Draw

Merry Christmas

Future Events

- Thu 4 Dec - Sutherland Hospital
- Thu 4 Dec - Bunnings Evening 6-8pm
- Fri 5 Dec - Visit by Shire Mayor
- Sat 6 Dec - Bunnings Front Foyer
- Wed 10 Dec - Delivery To Children's Hospital Family Co - TBA



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”

MAXIDAY SHOW AND TELL 8 NOVEMBER

Neil Matthews



This project began with a 15 second video on Pinterest couple of months ago. Ian also saw the same video and we both started making these boards independently of each other. This is my third attempt, and I'm still not there.

We have found that if we ever make them again there are a few do's and don'ts.

You start with a precisely square piece of hardwood nominally around 45mm. The next bit of precision is to set the dovetail cutter in the router table, precisely in the centre of the timber. This can also be achieved by after the first cut, turning the timber end for end and cutting again.

Problems: Running a slot through the centre of the workpiece on the table saw lessens the load on the dovetail cutter. Unless you are cutting a relatively short piece of wood the workpiece gets clogged with swarf. I found second cutting to centralise the dovetail caused some splintering. Once the dovetail is cut, the block needs to be cut up. I chose 30mm, then squared up the dovetails & glued them together, but you need to be quick before the glue goes off. Once the glue goes off and the board is sanded you need to measure up for the bow ties. I chose this method, while Ian chose to fit the bow ties during glue-up. Because of some splintering during the second cut, I finished up with a variety of sizes in the bow tie cutouts. In my board there are 58 cutouts. I measured each one with my digital calliper and registered the results on a traced layout copy. Ian showed me how to use the dovetail cutter on the router table to make the bow ties. Each one of these is different as I finished up with three principal cutout lengths and a variety of dovetail widths. It went together with the need for a lot of filler. After a final sand and oiling, it looks reasonable providing you don't get too close.

Not my best work, but if anyone needs to make one of these, I have a wealth of knowledge on what not to do.



Dovetail Cutting Board

Neil Matthews

My kids do not produce little ones for me to make toys. My youngest daughter has cats, and I made a play box for them, and finished-up with 4 round cutouts that I decided to make into Merry-Go-Rounds for someone-else's kids.

There's a 15mm hole in the centre of the cutout which is supported by three strings over a 12mm dowel. As you rotate the disc, the string winds up and when released the disc rotates and winds up again maintaining rotation back and forth. No batteries and not much to go wrong. I hope some kid gets some enjoyment from it.

Toy Merry-Go-Round



Malcolm Armstrong

"On our previous visit to SCH Randwick there was a request for a couple more of the Carousels which are a rotating version of a hanging mobile. We had previously supplied 4 mobiles, two in September 2019 and two in December 2019. So I was happy to make these 2 as requested. They have a different base this time which may make them more stable when children have fun spinning the carousel. The capstan is one piece with the knob using a pinlock arrangement. The coloured acrylic hanging panels are backed with an acrylic mirror cut out on the laser. The bells make for some entertainment for the toddlers! Five coats of Satin acrylic varnish was used to finish the carousels. Hopefully the therapy team can use them to bring some enjoyment to the very young patients undergoing protracted medical treatment."



Carousels



Ian Rudd

These two boards were made for the club to sell. One is a conventional basket weave board made from Coachwood and Merbau. The end grain board is made from Red Gum and has butterfly joints made with Mountain ash.

Both boards have been finished with Mineral oil and beeswax.

Cutting Boards



Richard Cain "Boot Puller Offa"

Due to my age and arthritis I found it hard to bend over and remove my boots. I asked Neil Matthews if he had any ideas to help me.

Neil, being a country boy had the ideal thing:-

a "Boot Puller Offa" In fact he had several!

I copied the basics off one and it turned out to be the perfect solution. This was made from re-cycled hardwood.

Thankyou Neil!



David Johnson

The pattern for the first cutting boards is called Mr Bobby from cuttingboarddesigner.com. Timber used is Tassie Oak - 5 of 15mm wide, and Gum - 1 of 45mm wide and 5 of 30mm wide. At the Club these were cut and sanded accurately to these sizes, otherwise the intersections do not line up. All the gluing I do at home. Sanded again, then cut again across the short side. Turned every second piece end for end. Then strips are turned over to expose the end grain, glued & sanded again. Finished with food safe mineral oil and bee's wax.

The second board was made using the left-over segmented strips from the first board and I put full width gum leftover lengths in between. Glued, sanded and used the same finish.

Turned bowl

Timber used was red gum, very dry and hard with lots of deep cracks. I mounted the wooden blank on a face plate on a wood lathe. Turned the base until I got through the cracks, which governed the finished turned shape. Then reversed the timber holding it in a chuck, then turned the inside. It ended up shallower than I would have liked due to the cracks. Finished with EEE from U Beaut Polishes.

Cutting Boards



Turned Bowl

Ray Bywater

My friend is restoring a 1966 HR Holden. Due to heat and age, the plastic arm rests and padded dash crash panel have badly deteriorated and distorted and are no longer usable. Nor can you obtain replacements.

He asked me to make these items for him and I found this project most difficult. Ray Tregonning helped me with the initial shaping, then I finished them with the aid of an ancient spokeshave, which I had not previously used. It is an amazing tool which I'm sure I will use more often.

After painting the arm rests and staining the crash pad I was more than pleased with the result and so was my friend. I just hope he doesn't restore any more old cars.=

1966 HR Holden restoration



PRESIDENT'S REPORT - DECEMBER 2025



A warm welcome to our new club members, Joe Costa & Octavia Barrington.

The Gymea Village Fair event, held in October and the Bunnings Sausage Sizzle were a success and I would like to thank everyone that participated in the planning leading up to and on the day of the events.

We are preparing for a delivery of items to The Royal Children's Hospital, Randwick and Family Co. charity at Jannali this December, if you have any items to donate please drop them into the Gallery.

We have our club Christmas Party on 13th December, come along and enjoy the day. Axel and his assistants will be cooking up a storm as usual.

I would like to thank the Committee for their effort in keeping the club on track and all club members for their efforts in making the club a success this year and I would like to wish everyone a very merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Stay safe, see you all in the new year.

Gary Healey - President.



LIBRARIAN UPDATE

We have received the December 2025 issue 129 of Australian Wood Review. The magazine is available in the gallery for your viewing.

TOY DELIVERY TO CHILDRENS' HOSPITAL & FAMILY CO

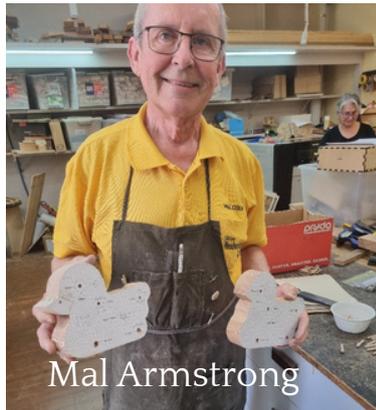
The following pictures reflect the enormous effort by our club members. Probably in excess of 650 toys. There are many club members responsible but to name a few, Steve Lansley, Maurice Smith, Ian Rudd, Nilgun Uzunlar, Tony Browne, Malcolm Armstrong, Brian Harward, Alan Hendry, John Lischeld, Ken Brunker and Ray De Marco. These pictures do not include named plaques requested by the kids, soft furnishings and dolls. The toys will be delivered on the 10th December. Great effort everyone.



TOY MAKING DAY - last Thursday 27th November



Tony Browne



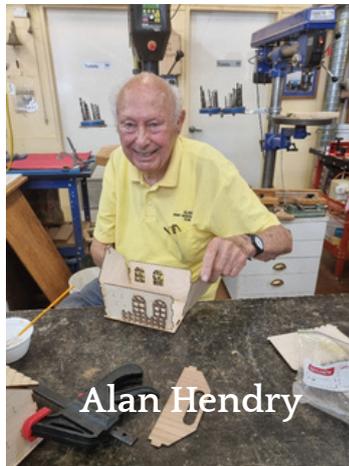
Mal Armstrong



Brian Harward



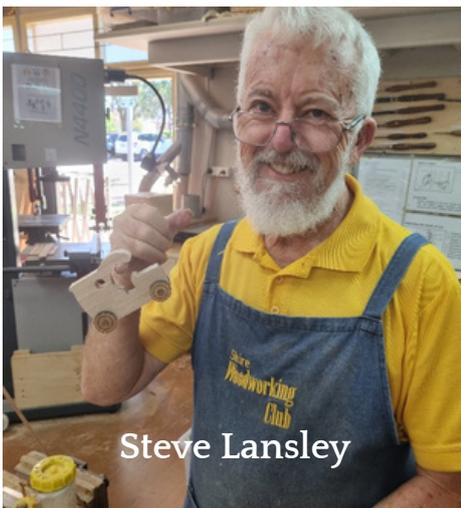
Nilgun Uzunlar



Alan Hendry



John Lischeld



Steve Lansley



Ken Brunker



Ray De Marco



SIMON KENNEDY

FEDERAL MEMBER FOR COOK

LIBERAL

GUEST SPEAKER

Greg De Moore - Finding Sanity

On our last Maxi Day 8th November Greg de Moore presented the story of the medical discovery by John Cade of the history and benefits of Lithium and the effects on bipolar disorder. Greg's presentation drew on his book titled 'Finding Sanity'. The following is a summary of Greg's presentation and the history by John Cade, the quiet Australian who came up with a breakthrough that saved millions of lives.

On 18 January 1912, in the Victorian town of Horsham John Frederick Joseph Cade was born into a family steeped in medicine. His father's work in mental hospitals gave young John early exposure to psychiatry—a field that would become his life's calling.

During World War II, Cade served in the Australian Army Medical Corps. In 1941, he was captured when Singapore fell and spent three and a half years in the notorious Changi prison camp. Amid deprivation, Cade observed the mental decline of fellow prisoners and began questioning the prevailing belief that mental illness was purely psychological. He suspected a biological cause—a radical idea at the time.

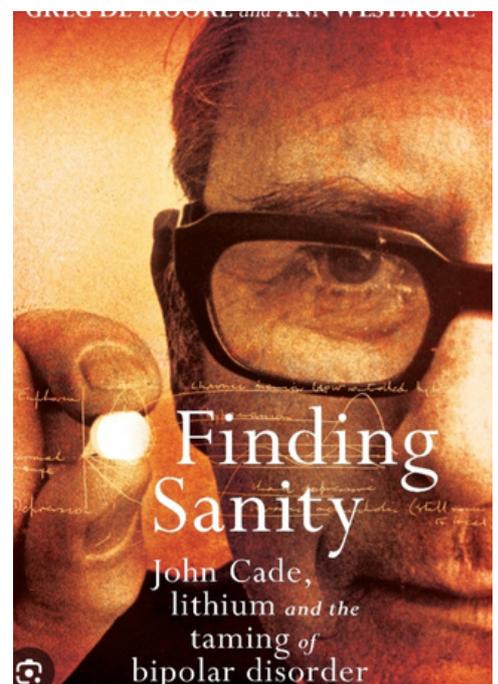
Returning to Melbourne in 1946, Cade set up a makeshift lab in a disused kitchen at Bundoora Repatriation Mental Hospital. His experiments were simple yet groundbreaking. He injected guinea pigs with urine from patients with mania, depression, and schizophrenia. The urine from manic patients was most toxic. To neutralise it, Cade added lithium urate—and discovered lithium itself had a calming effect.

Cade tested lithium on himself first, then on patients. In 1948, he treated manic patients with lithium carbonate, and the results were astonishing. His 1949 paper in the Medical Journal of Australia marked the dawn of modern psychopharmacology. Lithium became the first effective medication for bipolar disorder—a breakthrough that saved millions of lives.

Cade's discovery faced early hurdles—toxicity concerns and lack of patent protection slowed adoption. Yet lithium remains the gold standard for bipolar treatment today.

John Cade died on 16 November 1980 in Fitzroy, Victoria, aged 68. His quiet revolution continues to echo in every life stabilised by lithium therapy. "Lithium didn't just calm mania—it restored hope."

Read the full story titled 'Finding Sanity Lithium and the Taming of Bipolar Disorder' by Greg de Moore and Ann Westmore. This compelling book explores Cade's life, his wartime ordeal, and the fortuitous experiments that changed mental health forever.



GET TO KNOW US

Kevin Gowen



Born: December 12, 1942, in Arncliffe, Sydney. After much searching in later life, I found that my family originated in Australia in 1788, with John Gowen who was a First Fleeter Marine Corporal on the Sirius. I lived in Rockdale, went to the Bexley primary school, then to Kogarah Boys High.

I became an apprentice cabinetmaker at Chiswell Bros factory in Rockdale. After completing my apprenticeship, I went to TAFE to gain my Leaving Certificate because I had decided that working in a factory was not for me.

I became an Industrial Arts teacher until an opportunity to switch to TAFE Cabinetmaking was offered to me. I stayed with TAFE for 30 years as teacher, Head Teacher and finally, after more study, Deputy Principal at both Ymea and St George TAFE. I retired at 60 in 2002.

My main regret was not following (because of cost) my passion for flying and aircraft in general.

I married for the first time in 1970, moved to Engadine to a brand new partially completed house and was able to use all my woodworking and other skills to make a family home. New rooms, a swimming pool, fencing and BBQ area were all constructed, mainly by me.

I've had a lifelong interest in classic cars, so it was very difficult for me to sell my almost new, blue MGB to pay the deposit on the Engadine property. After about 12 years, we moved to a very run-down original cottage in Beauford Avenue, South Caringbah.

I still had a love of interesting cars, so I bought a 1982 Range Rover in 1986, joined the Range Rover Club in 1986 and have been in the club ever since. I held various positions in the Club, including Secretary, Social Secretary and trip planning. Another car club, of which I am secretary, formed about 20 years ago in The Shire, is called the ROMEO Club (an acronym for Retired Old Men Eating Out) where we have a monthly 'breakfast run' to give our old classic and sometimes newer classic cars a spell on the roads.



Big plans were drawn up to knock the old Beauford Avenue place down (it was full of white ants) and build a new modern home however after 17 years, my wife left to 'find herself' so I looked after our two boys and kept the place habitable until it was sold. While at Beauford Ave, I bought a non-running, very dilapidated Austin Healy Sprite and spent many hours working on the car, in a garage that I built, to bring it up to good standard. It was great therapy.

I met Jennifer after a couple of years on my own and we married in 1990. We bought 358 Willarong Road and have been here ever since. The boys (well, men now) are married and we have two grandchildren. Jennifer came to Australia with her family in 1954 as ten-pound-Pom's. She has a love of travel, so we started to 'explore the world'. The UK, Europe, Scandinavia, the USA, Canada, South America, India, Cuba, Mexico as well as Australian travel, such as the Simpson Desert and Arnhem Land with the Range Rover Club.

A chance meeting with a distant relative of Jenny's started a passion for fly fishing, which has taken me to several States of Australia. the USA, Canada England, France, Italy and, of course, New Zealand. I fish New Zealand at least once a year and have taken our youngest son (who lives in Tasmania) there for fly fishing trips. While out walking about 10 years ago, Jenny and I saw the Shire Woodworking Club sign. Before long I was a member and creating simple and sometimes not so simple items. I'm OK with all the major machinery but have yet to work-out the computer-controlled machines.

In 2023 I contracted Sepsis (unknown origin) which resulted in heart failure, kidney failure and an extended hospital stay. I was told that I was just about ready for my last rites, but with the able assistance of some very skilled specialists and perhaps a good constitution, a very supportive family and help on the homefront by members of the Woodwork Club's welfare team and the ROMEO Club. I gradually came back to good health. 82 years of life on one page is not easy to write about; however I feel privileged to have a great wife, great family and great friends to assist when the need is there—and I can assist them.

25" CARBATEC DUAL DRUM SANDER Roger Dixon

Each month we will include tips for better safe practices. We start this month with the Drum Sander.

Since May 2022 The clubs policy is to lift & leave the lid open after each use, clean & ready for next user. Always make sure excess glue has been removed from your project before using the Drum Sander

- (1) Check that the sanding belts are clean & tensioned correctly
- (2) Set the height about 2-3mm higher than the board
- (3) Mark board with chalk in a zigzag pattern
- (4) While passing through wind the handle clockwise until you hear the emery kiss the board
- (5) Pass the board through again without adjusting the height
- (6) ONE TURN OF THE HANDLE IS 4MM. Wind handle clockwise 1/32 turn ((1/4 turn = 1mm (.040")). Break this 1/4 turn into 8 passes at .005".

Repeat (6) until finished, wiping or brushing any sawdust off the surface after each pass.



Note: During above operation (after 4-6 passes) turn off conveyor belt off, open lid & while machine is running lightly rub the cleaning stick along emery belts. This is designed to avoid any burnt sawdust & or resin that has clogged up the grit from setting hard. Make sure you tidy up at the end of your job.

Clean the work station before moving on or leaving for the day

Paints/Stains/Glues

If you are looking for some paints/stains/glues for your current or next project we have some in the cupboard in the gallery next to library. Take a look and help yourself.



TO SAVOUR YOUR PALATE



Menu for December

Morning Tea :to be decided by committee!!

Lunch:

Dixi Ham by Roger Dixon.

Plump Cornish Cross pullet honey drizzled drumsticks Miss Piggy rolled pork with Granny Smith apple sauce Creamy cheese topped potato bake Dual salad bowls tossed in yet undisclosed herbs, oils & spices Dinner rolls

Dessert :

Coffee liquor infused Tiramisu to sharpen everyone up for the drive home!

South Pole Santa puddings with brandy custard by Richard Fresh fruit for the healthy predisposed



Cheers Axel



WOOLOOWARE SHORES MARKET DAY

20 November 2025



Good result at Woollooware Shores. Major items sold:

- 2 x coaster sets
- mattress lifter
- 2 x wool boxes
- 2 x Spiderman boxes
- 3 x racing cars
- 2 x doll's cradles
- 4 x needle cases
- train whistle
- large basket weave board

DECEMBER SALES

Bunnings Evening - 4 December

In our sales we sold one of Ian's snare drums. We also sold a Geoff Tong Turned Bowl. Thanks to all who attended.

Sutherland Hospital - 4 December

An excellent result, Ian's laser produced items were included in our sales. Thanks to everybody who attended.

Bunnings Sales - 6 December



Plenty of interest, great sales, Christmas items sold well including 5 needle cases and cutting boards. Thanks to the dynamic team, Maurice, Gary, Ray T, Ray B, Tom and Peter, well done team.

NOTICE BOARD



Birthdays in December

Alan Hendry	06 Dec
Logan Kurtz	09 Dec
Gary Mitchell	09 Dec
Bob Quigley	10 Dec
Kevin Gowen	12 Dec
Jan Westerhof	16 Dec
Gary Halder	16 Dec
Mark Greenacre	22 Dec
Mike Green	27 Dec

Safety Notice



Safety is the responsibility of every member of the club

Cook Raffle

Our allocation of Cook raffle tickets is rapidly running out, so if you want to buy one or more of the winning tickets you only have just under two months to do so.

It's easy, just deposit the cost of a book \$25 into the Club bank account, or pay in cash at the club. See Roger Dixon, Alan Ritchie or Graham Ethell, alternatively any of the other committee members who will be happy to accept your cash and provide the book(s) to you to complete the butts.

Please note all documentation has to be returned to the Cook electorate office by very early February, so you only have to 31st January to be in it.

Raffle Winners 8 Nov Maxi Day

- 1st - Tony Browne (voucher to Watercress Cafe at Woollooware Shores)
- 2nd - Joe Costa
- 3rd - Alan Stubbs

Thank you to Woollooware Shores for providing the dining vouchers. Much appreciated.

Defibtech Lifeline Fully Automatic Defibrillator



Members, remember we have an auto defib machine in the cabinet next to the medical kits. If you need guidance talk with Alan Ritchie, David Edwards or any of the committee.

Buy Swap Sell

If you have tools and equipment that you get rid of them we can advertise them in the newsletter. Just drop me a line (copy in Maurice Smith) and we will try to sell them.

Welfare

Reno Sciberras recovering from heart condition

Take care of yourself.

Useful websites from "Ian's Videos" on Maxiday

Bandsaw drift
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UcxshIzjv_0

woodgrain
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oZkYLVrTYe4>

Cutting Mitres
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TwGEPD66SwQ>

Morcomewise
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EFgdhZGLrY>

COMEDY CORNER

Shire Woodworking Club



'OLD' IS WHEN...

You don't care where your spouse goes, just as long as you don't have to go along.

'OLD' IS WHEN...

'Getting lucky' means you find your car in the parking lot.





SHIRE WOODWORKING CLUB 2025 CALENDAR

January 2025							February 2025							March 2025						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa	S	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa	S	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
			PH	2	3	4							1							1
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	9	10	11	12	12	14	15
19	20	21	22	23	24	25#	16	17	18	19	20	24	22#	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
26	PH	28	29	30	31		23	24	25	26	27	28		23	24	25	26	27	28	29
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April 2025							May 2025							June 2025						
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		1	2	3	4	5					1	2	3	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	4	5	6	7	8	9	10#	8	PH	10	11	12	13	14
13	14	15	16	17	PH	PH	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
PH	PH	22	23	24	PH	26	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
27	28	29	30				25	26	27	28	29	30	31	29	30					

July 2025							August 2025							September 2025						
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20	21	22	23	24	25	26	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
27	28	29	30	31			24	25	26	27	28	29	30	28	29	30				
							31													

October 2025							November 2025							December 2025						
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5	PH	7	8	9	10	11	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
19	20	21	22	23	24	25#	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	21	22	23	24	PH	PH	27
26	27	28	29	30	31		23	24	25	26	27	28	29	28	29	30	31			
							30													

LEGEND:

- Club Days - Every Tuesday to Thursday + Saturdays **except 1st Saturday**
- Committee Meeting 12:30pm - Tuesday, prior to 2nd Saturday.
Note: Own projects catered for before & 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 2025 is Saturday 20 December. Resume Tuesday 6 January 2026

Note: There must be a minimum of 3 members present on any day. No exceptions.

Note: Wood carvers attend 1st Saturday + 3rd Wednesday (Evening)

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	