

The Official Newsletter of the SHIRE WOODWORKING CLUB Inc. Reg. No. Y2889524

"The WORKSHOP", 2B Turriell Bay Road, Lilli Pilli. NSW. 2229

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2019 Al Usherwood Award for Excellence

Winners with their certificates



January 2020 MaxiDay was the occasion for the presentation of the certificates to the 2019 Al Usherwood Excellence Award winners.

From Left to Right in the above photo:

Ian Rudd on behalf of Spencer Ramsay who was unable to attend—Furniture category. Robert Peake—Toy category. David Edwards—overall winner and winner of the Utilities category, Geoff Tong—winner of the Art category.

The photo on the right shows Spencer; several days after the meeting, Spencer came to the workshop so while he was present he was lassoed by Ian and presented with his certificate .

The article on page 3 tells us about Al Usherwood and why the Excellence Award named.

David Edwards and his award winning entry. A full report on this project is on page 4 of this newsletter.



Major items in this edition

- ◇ 2019 Excellence Awards
- ◇ President's report
- ◇ Who was Al Usherwood and why is our Excellence Award named after him?
- ◇ David Edwards and how he made the 3d cutting board which won the Excellence Award for 2019
- ◇ 2020 Plank competition notice and rules
- ◇ Show and Tell for January 2020
- ◇ Notice Board

CLUB COMMITTEE:

President: Ian Rudd
Vice President: Malcolm Armstrong
Secretary: Graham Ethell
 Telephone 9522 7674
Treasurer: Alan Ritchie
Committee Members: Ray De Marco, Roger Dixon & Barry Gardner

SUB-COMMITTEES & Auxiliary Positions

Assistant Secretary: Roger Dixon
Assistant Treasurer: Roger Walsh
Project Sub-Committee: Bob Davis, Barry Gardner, , Alan Ritchie, Ray Tregoning.
Librarian: Roger Walsh
Safety Officers: Ray De Marco, Roger Dixon, David Edwards, Graham Ethell, Alan Ritchie, Ian Rudd, Ray Tregoning.
Welfare Officer: Peter Mott
First Aid Officers: Graham Ethell & Alan Ritchie
Newsletter Editor: Maurice Smith
Assistant Newsletter Editors: Ray De Marco & Roger Walsh
Catering Officers: Richard Cain, Michael Green, Steve Lansley, Trevor Lewis, Neil Mathews, Lynn Messenger & Roger Walsh
Equipment & Training : Roger Dixon, David Edwards, Neil Mathews, Terry Murphy, Alan Ritchie, Ian Rudd, Ray Tregoning, James Windschuttle
Raffles: Peter Mott
Exhibitions Sub-Committee: Malcolm Armstrong, Roger Dixon, Graham Ethell, Steve Lansley, Lyn Messenger, Maurice Smith & David Whitney.
Property Sub-Committee: Richard Cain, Roger Dixon, Graham Ethell, Bob Quigley, Ian Rudd, & Ray Tregoning
Toymaking: Malcolm Armstrong, Barry Gardner, Gary Halder,, Steve Lansley, Lyn Messenger, Glen Reeve, Reno Scriberras, Maurice Smith, Ken Tyson & Roger Walsh
Woodcarvers' Liaison: Ron O'Malley

Editor's Musings—

Even though the club's laser cutter/engraver is around a year old and is very well used by many members; its use has not meant the demise of the traditional wood working skills.

The members who have embraced the use of this technology regard the laser as just another power tool to be used when the occasion is appropriate.

As one of the members who has started to come to grips with this tool I am enjoying the challenge of working to master it. Like other tools it does take time to figure out how to best use it's capabilities. For me, it will allow me to make more toys that are easy to reproduce for the Children's Hospital.

If you would like to receive this Newsletter please email the editor at **theshirewoodworkingclub@gmail.com** or if you have an article that you think would be suitable for publication in this newsletter your Editor would be most pleased to receive it.

MAXIDAY: SATURDAY 8 FEBRUARY, 2020 AGENDA

8:45am	Open Lilli Pilli Workshop
9:00am	Monthly Meeting
9:30am	Video — Ian's selection
10:00am	Morning Tea
10:30am	Show & Tell including Show & Tell of Members Gizmos and Gadgets
11:15	Making an acrylic circle template on the laser cutter
12:00noon	Lunch
1:00pm	Review of safety and use of the Drum Sander — Roger Dixon.
1:15pm	Using the Mirka sanding system. Setting up, tips etc
1:30pm	Raffle Draw
1:45pm	Members projects
3.00pm	Workshop Close

President's report

At this time of the year we are busy making Easter themed toys for our upcoming delivery to the Children's Hospital Randwick. The laser has been hard at work with Easter rabbits and Easter eggs and our February Toymaking day was busy assembling these creations. Before the next delivery of items to The Children's Hospital Randwick we have more toymaking day on February 27th so please bring along some items and be part of those making items for our club.

A special thank you to the following members for taking on the task of organising our storage. Neil Mathews and Roger Dixon have spent many hours helping to sort out all our mixed screws and fasteners and rearranging them in orderly storage drawers. All the screws are now stored and clearly labelled by size. Also, they have repeated the process with all the many drills we had located in various draws and containers. The drills are now sorted into Metric and Imperial and brad point and metal. Please ensure when you have used a drill that is replaced in the correct drill stand or drill box.

A reminder to all members when the workshop is open the double doors must be unlocked at all times so that in the event of a fire members can rapidly exit the workshop. Also, please remember to leave your workplace bench clean with no leftover items when you are leaving for the day. We have plenty of brooms so please use them to clean up your area when you leave.

Your club has made and donated some assistance steps for a special needs child in Sylvania. We were presented with an item that had been previously made via the NDIS system and Ray Tregoning in his usual manner greatly improved the design and made the steps complete with a durable Polyurethane finish. The parents of the child were delighted with the finished result and this is another instance of what our club can do for our community. Well done to all concerned.

Happy Woodworking Ian Rudd

Why is the annual award for Excellence named after Al Usherwood?

The article below is reprinted from the January 2016 newsletter.

Our December meeting again saw the judging of our Annual Al Usherwood Award of Excellence. Secretary Graham has been busy in the research department and has provided the following "Al Usherwood was one of the early members of the newly formed Triton Owners Club at Oyster Bay in the late 1990s. He joined the Club around December 1999 and died just before the AGM in August 2001.

In his Obituary in the Sawdust and Shavings after his death, he was remembered as "Mr Perfection". Everyone admired the craftsmanship in his rocking horse, which featured prominently in the 2001 Timber and Working with Wood Show. He had patience which was shown when he assembled the Triton planer attachment to the Triton Workcentre. He fastidiously measured, measured, then measured again until the planer was set perfectly. He displayed patience and perfection that ensured that his woodwork stood with the best".

The Club members resolved at the AGM in August 2001 to establish the "Al Usherwood Memorial Award for Excellence". This was to be an annual award presented to a member "whose work during the year has been of a standard worthy of Al Usherwood's endorsement".

In November of that year the name was changed to "Al Usherwood Award" so all members could participate. Various categories were proposed to be included.

In October 2002 the name was again changed to "The Triton Owner's Club (Oyster Bay) Inc. Annual Woodworking Competition" and the award for any one outstanding entry was to be called "The Al Usherwood Award".

Subsequently the competition has evolved to what it is today, with little further change from the initial concept."

Has our retired editor taken up wood-carving?

Barry Gardner is shown below with mallet and chisel. Has he taken on a major woodcarving project?



What is he doing? Does he need a bigger chisel? This photo needs a caption. Can any reader suggest an appropriate caption?

Our Mr Fastidious — Roger Dixon



January Maxi-Day saw our very own Mr Fastidious, Roger Dixon, taking us through the safety issues in using the Triton Table router.

The safety reminder was well received and once again reinforced the need to be always safety aware.

Drills for sale

See Notice Board for details of the sale. These drills are all for sale.



David Edwards - reports on how he made the 3d cutting board

David won the 2019 Al Usherwood Annual Excellence Award for his 3d cutting board. David's report on the construction of the boards follows.

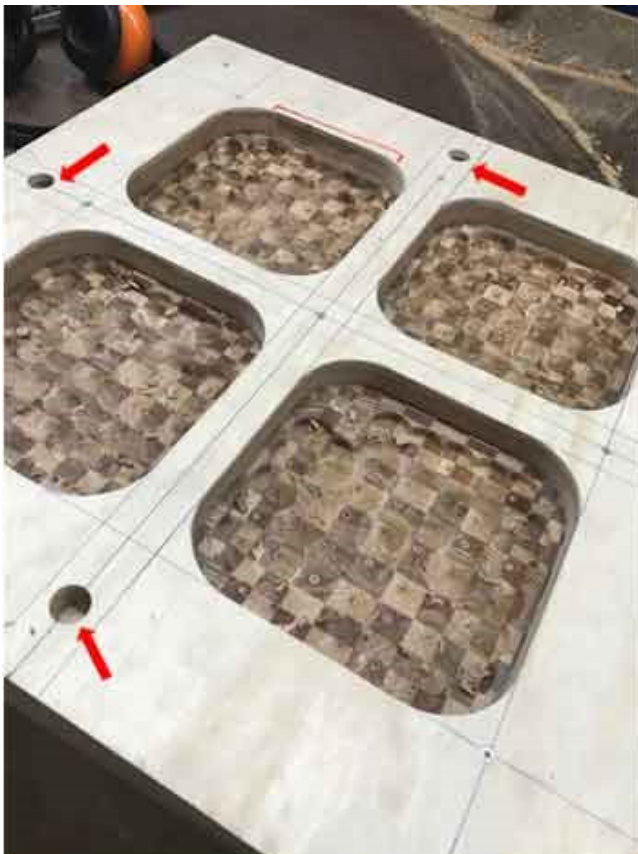
The "butterfly" 3D End Grain Cutting Board is a design by MTM Wood (located in Russia). After seeing it on YouTube, I purchased the plan and proceeded to follow the instructions, not realising how much work was involved.



I used White Oak and Spotted Gum to achieve the 3D butterfly pattern which is best seen when viewing the board across its diagonal. The greater the contrast between the two woods used, the greater 3D pattern effect.

The process required a lot of cutting and sanding to precise measurements with thicknesses required ranging from 3mm to 24mm. Two boards were glued up with the second being a 'negative' of the first (ie; the order of the two timber types was reversed).

The two boards were then crosscut with the pieces rotated 90deg and re-sawn and sanded to achieve the varying thicknesses of 3mm to 24mm again. These pieces were then laid out in order per these photos from



Board with template after forstner bit use.
Arrows indicate indexing holes

my home workshop and then rotated 90deg for the glue-up. The glue-up needs to be very precise to ensure correct alignment of the pattern.

All the cutting gave me enough pieces for two boards, so rather than having two the same, I decided to make the second into a platter.

I did this by making a custom router template and a sled base for my router. I drilled four indexing holes towards the outside of the template on the X and Y centrelines so that I could precisely align the template to the board. The sled base was necessary for the router to bridge the template.

After removing most of the material with a forstner bit on my drill press, I then used a bowl bit in the router to do the final cutting.

I finished both the board and the platter with a mix of mineral oil and bees wax.

Statistics!! Number of saw cuts – approx. 200. Passes through the drum sander - thousands!! Would I do it again – Maybe!!

OUR 2020 PLANK COMPETITION IS ON AGAIN

YOU HAVE TO BE IN IT TO WIN IT

Please register your interest with Ray De Marco immediately so that the number of planks can be ordered for delivery to our Workshop for collection by competitors at our March Maxiday. Saturday 14 March, 2020.

*You have 6 months to complete your entry and have a chance of winning a prize
Judging will take place on Maxiday 12 September, 2020*

TOYMAKING PLANK COMPETITION RULES FOR 2020

1. The purpose of the Competition, open to all members of the Shire Woodworking Club, is for members to enhance their woodworking skills, creativity and to have fun.
2. The Competition will be conducted in three categories as per last year. Eligible members in each Category will be published in "Sawdust and Shavings". All entrants will be supplied with a plank of Radiata Pine approximately 1500mm x 290mm x 19mm or equivalent.
3. There is no restriction on the number, size, type and design of the entry providing it is used to make one or more toys for the Club. It is to be made predominantly from the timber supplied. Full use of the timber supplied should, where practical, be attempted and any remaining pieces are to be returned to the Club.
4. Finished entry/s are to be made available for judging on the Maxi Day 12 September 2020. **Entries in the Competition shall become the property of the Club to sell, or to dispose of, at the Club's discretion.**
5. Members present on the judging day will be entitled to vote on the entries in categories for which they have not submitted an entry. Procedures for the judging will be determined by the Committee and advised to members on the day, however members will be asked to award marks under three criteria:
 - Is it a good creative design including the entrant's creative design input?
 - Is it well made?
 - Is it well finished?
6. The winner, runner-up and third placegetter in each Category will be awarded prizes to be determined by the Committee.
7. Winners will progress to higher categories as follows:
 - The 1st and 2nd prize winners in Category C will progress to Category B in the following year's competition.
 - The 1st prize winner in Category B will progress to Category A in the following year's competition.
8. In the event of a complaint, the complainer is directed to Clause 1 of these Rules.

SOME OF THE PLANK COMPETITION ENTRIES FROM 2019



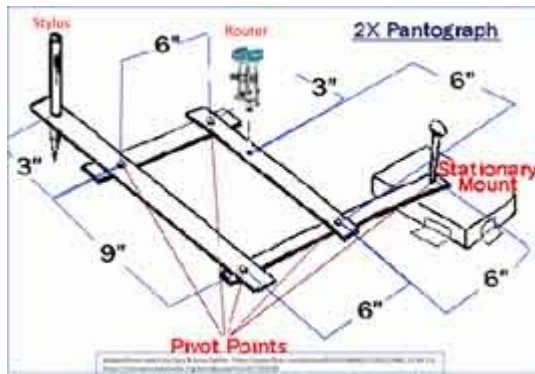
SHOW & TELL

January 2020

David Edwards and his Pantograph

David explained to the members what a pantograph is and how it works. Then he demonstrated its use by making one of the parts for the marble machine that so many people admire.

David reports: "When I bought the plans for the marble machines, I didn't realise that they were for use with a CNC router. So, I had to work out an alternative way of producing the many quite intricate parts and after some researching, I decided that I would build a router pantograph. The pantograph is a 2X parallelogram linkage where the stylus tracing a template produces a copy at the router. The 2X means that any distance moved by the stylus is halved at the router.



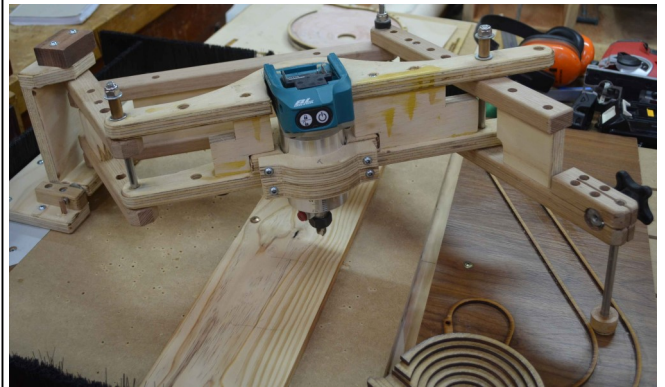
Woodgears.ca provided the plans for the pantograph and the templates for the marble machine parts were produced on the club's laser and glued to backing boards. As the pantograph is a 2X, each of the templates is double the size of the routed object. This also goes for the stylus, if using a 1/2" router bit, then the stylus diameter needs to be 1".

After many failures I became fairly proficient and made 90% of the marble machine parts with the pantograph. It is messy and to contain the dust, I adapted brush seals to the perimeter of the pantograph base.

Its use is only limited by imagination and the ability to produce the required templates."

David's Pantograph

While David was showing and describing his pantograph I couldn't help but admire the large amount of effort that went into building the pantograph and skill and workmanship needed. And this was to build a



tool that was required to build a toy for entry into the Plank Competition. What a high level of dedication needed. But then again what else would you expect from the winner of the 2019 Excellence Award.

Researching the net about Pantographs

In preparation for David's article about his pantograph your Editor went searching YouTube for information in the form of videos about pantographs.

Amongst other things I learned about pantographs that are located on the top of electric trains. That lead me into a veritable very deep rabbit warren showing what seemed to be the complete history of the electric train service in India. All because I wanted to learn about pantograph usage in woodworking. I'm not sure whether I should thank David for that deep dive into electric trains or not.

SHOW & TELL

January 2020

Malcolm Armstrong and a Carousel

On our visit to the SCH at Randwick toward the end of 2019, we were asked to make two more Carousels for use with very young children. These two have some differences to those delivered last September/October.

The main variation is that these have the hub and knob turned from one piece of timber; previous versions had the knob fixed with a rotating hub. Barry and I discussed how to do this so I drew on some of my previous toy making projects which incorporated a



'Locked Pin' in a housing which allows adjacent parts to rotate relative to each other but keeping the parts together when lifted. This locked pin was installed

inside the hub and held captive by a turned ring screwed to the underside of the hub. Brass screws were used as I wanted to avoid gluing end grain. The central pin was glued to the inside of the carousel's post using GORILLA glue whilst being careful not have any glue in contact with the rotating surfaces where the hub meets the post. I used candle wax on these surfaces to ensure this. I also placed a steel washer between the rotating surfaces to achieve a smoother rotation of the unit. The other variation on the previous two Carousels is that an Acrylic Mirror was installed with every coloured acrylic plate.

As with the previous carousels, the finish used on these two was "TIMBERPROTECT, Quick Dry Clear, Satin 300g, by British Paints "- five coats were applied, using very fine sanding pads between coats, (this product is good because there only needs to be a 10 minute wait between each coat.) All surfaces were covered to ensure no raw wood was exposed as required by the SCH team. We'll deliver these with our Easter delivery around the end of March.

Toy Off Road Vehicle—Maurice Smith

This toy Off Road Vehicle was based on plans in one of the toy books in the library. This is prototype number 1. The plans call for the inclusion of a 9 volt battery and a flashing LED on the top of the cabin.

As this vehicle was intended for a young grandson I skipped the bit about the battery and flashing light. My daughter-in-law owes me big time for that omission!

The vehicle has independent suspension that uses strips of bicycle tubing; this I obtained from the service department of Frasers Cycles; they pulled it from their rubbish bin.

The plans called for 12mm plywood, so for this version I glued 2 parts of 6mm plywood. I'm presently working on converting this design to use 6mm plywood in the anticipation that this may be a toy for use at the Randwick Children's Hospital.



Neil Mathews and his battery fan



Neil reports:

"Recently we had a long blackout during the night and 'worry' the air conditioner went off! There have been many news reports that with the present conditions, we can expect many more blackouts during summer. Hot nights can effect sleeping, so as we have used these small fans in the caravan in ten years of outback touring, I decided to make two self-powered units for some insurance.

The fans are

(Continued on page 8)

SHOW & TELL

January 2020

Neil Mathews and his Possum Box

Neil reports: "A couple of years ago, a bloke called into the Woodies and told us he was dismantling a picket fence and did we need any?"



I thought "yeah, I could make a possum box." So as I was cleaning up the leaves that had piled up around these pickets for the last two years, I decided now would be a good time.

I looked up possum boxes on the web, and one thing suggested was a good roof. I ran three pickets through the joiner and glued them together.

I needed battens to attach the pickets for the sides that also doubled for inside climbing rails for the occupants. I glued and screwed it all together and added a chain to hang the box from a branch. A strip of sheet metal will be screwed to the back of the box to secure it to the tree.

Two things I found in making this box, 1. If I ever make another possum box it will be made from plywood, not pickets, and 2. If I need to use chain to hang it from a branch, I will get someone else to slide the hose over the chain."

Neil was quite modest in his report description as he didn't mention the efforts that he went to ensure that the occupants were kept dry in wet weather. I recall mention of silicon beading to keep water out. Well

Peter O'Connell's Possum Box

At the meeting Peter told us that he "has possums in the roof of his house, so set out to build a pair of possum boxes to give his "guests" somewhere to go before he closes off access to their current abode. The boxes were made with plywood recycled from some pallets being disposed of at his work. Most work on the boxes was carried out during an evening session at the club rooms on Tuesday 17th December."

Story continued in next column.

Neil Mathews and his battery fan (Cont'd)

Cerframo Sirocco Fans made in Canada. They are quiet and only draw 200milliamps of current from a 12 volt supply. I tracked down a small 12 volt lithium ion battery that I calculated would give me 9 hours of running.

I used 35 x 90 x 200mm hardwood and cut a hole for the battery with a router.

The battery is secured in place with a strip of sheet metal. I drilled holes for access to the battery on/off switch and the charging plug that fits flush in the edge of the mounting block. The battery comes with a charger that plugs into a power point. I also made provision in the wiring connectors that if I need to I can also run the fan on 240v from the charger plug

Peter O'Connell' (cont'd)

Peter indicated that he wouldn't be keeping the boxes long, so if anyone is interested in some free possum boxes (complete with free possums), then see Peter at the February meeting.

Most residents of the Shire are likely to have



had one or more close encounters with possums. So keep Peter's offer in mind next time you want to move along an unwanted guest possum.

SHOW & TELL

January 2020

Peter O'Connell's sign for Thirlmere RFS

Peter told the meeting that he has a pair of car



trailers with radio towers mounted on them stored in a paddock at a mate's place in Oakdale. The December bushfires threatened the property and the Thirlmere Rural Fire Service managed to stop the fires about 50 metres from the trailers AND more importantly from the sheds and house on the property.

The sign is a thank you gift that he will present to the Thirlmere RFS in a month or two when things quiet down.

Free to a good home!

In the workshop we have about 150 of the child's chair seats that are surplus to requirements. They are also taking up valuable floor space.

There are several colours (white, brown, blue and lemon). The dimensions are: 280mm * 250mm * 19mm. They are made from MDF and have a Melamine covering.

The photo below shows one of the seats.



If you are interested come to the workshop to collect, they are stacked near the front door.

Ray Tregoning—

Step for Lila with severe disability

A simple box step to go around the toilet to allow her to be able to reach the seat. One of these is for use at



home in the downstairs area, the other for Sylvania Heights Primary School where she will start school this year. A disabled toilet has been constructed for her. I think this simple plywood box cost a lot less than the \$1,500 they paid for the existing one.

Graham built the truck for the girl's brother Oscar so that he didn't feel left out.

Ray Tregoning demonstrates the router template

Oval Cutting Board – Groove around edge



The demonstration was for the routed groove with the Makita plunge router. A pattern cut on the laser I could run the machine using the Brass Router Bushing set lowering the cutter bit by bit to the desired depth while moving the router around and around inside the pattern.

Coming Up!

Club Calendar

February 2020

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

March 2020

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				

Legend:

Club Day & Committee meeting

MaxiDay

Club Day

Toy Making

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

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

NOTICE BOARD

SAFETY

SAFETY FIRST: Members are asked on all club days to bring along and use their personal safety gear. ie. hearing protection, dust mask, eye protection, ensure they are wearing good sturdy protective footwear and no loose fitting clothes.

14 March 2020 MAXIDAY THEME

Intarsia projects. Sharpening Chisels, Planer Blades, Gouges using the club's Robert Sorby Progrind Sharpener. Fire drill.

INTARSIA

Friday 21 FEBRUARY 2020

Search for "Kathy Wise Intarsia" on your favourite internet search machine. We will be blessed by a visit by the Kathy Wise an artist who specialises in intarsia. She will demonstrate the art of intarsia for several hours on the above date in our workshop. .

What is intarsia?

Intarsia is created by selecting different types of wood, using its natural grain patterns and colors to create the different colors in the pattern. Each piece of wood is then individually cut, shaped, and sanded before fitting them together like a jig-saw puzzle and gluing them to a piece of 1/4 inch plywood backing cut to the shape of the final product. (The above text is taken from Kathy's website <http://www.wiseintarsia.com/about.html> .)

For Sale!

The club has for sale 6 used corded power drills no longer required. \$10 each or the lot for \$50.

They are sold as is. The six comprise:

- 3 Black & Decker
- 2 Ozito
- 1 NRG

Two of the six are hammer drills, the rest are not. Available at the club room for cash. See page 3 for photos of these drills.

January 2020 Raffle winners

1. Graham Ethell
2. Alan Hendry
3. David Johnson
4. Terry Murphy

Come to the Retirement & Recreation Expo at Gynea Tradies Club

As in previous years our club will have a stand at the above named expo where we showcase some of our talented members' output.

When: Saturday 15 February

Time: From 9am thru to 3pm

Where: Gynea Tradies Club, Elouera Room

In addition to our club there will be lots of other community groups also displaying their offerings.

So come along and see what the many community groups in the Shire have to offer. Don't forget to say hello to club members who are manning our stand.

Members with Birthdays in February

Day	Member
2	Les Symonds
8	Alan Stubbs
9	Peter Kluegel
12	Peter Howard
22	David Johnson
25	Graham Ethell
25	Don Williams
26	Greg Crossling

Hope every one of you have a wonderful birthday and lots more of them.



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