

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

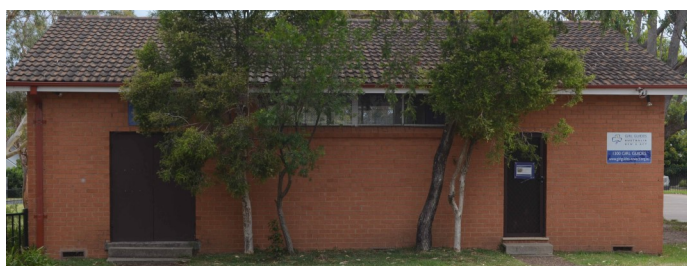
Hospital and Charity Christmas Deliveries—starting on page 3



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A major addition to club space—starting page 11



Show and Tell—on page 13



Merry Chistmas and a Happy New Year

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, Lynn 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, Lynn Messenger, Glen Reeve, Reno Scriberras, Maurice Smith, Ken Tyson & Roger Walsh
Woodcarvers' Liaison: Ron O'Malley

Editor's Musings—

In my first full year on this role as Editor, I have been privileged to edit and produce this monthly newsletter during the Covid-19 pandemic. This meant that at times I have had to resort to non-traditional news sources to acquire information for my readers.

Despite the issues forced upon us by Covid-19 safety measures I'm pleased to be able to say that our club has come through the pandemic as strong as we when the pandemic started and we now have a greater membership level than ever before. We are in a sound financial position due to the continued efforts of so many of our members and the untiring efforts of the committee.

As we head into 2021 with newly acquired access to the additional space in the form of the

Presidents Report December 2020

This year has been a difficult one for the Shire Woodworking Club. We all know how Covid 19 has affected our daily lives and how it restricted the way our club operated this year. We lost three months where the club was closed and when we were able to reopen a roster system was introduced to meet the NSW Government requirements. To allow greater access to the reopened club Friday openings were introduced and this has allowed members more options and flexibility. Unfortunately, due to social distancing Maxi Days have not been able to be held. I look forward to resuming Maxi days at the earliest possibility as they are an essential monthly event that allows all members to get together and enjoy the spirit of the Shire Woodworking Club.

This year has been difficult for fund raising activities but we have still managed to maintain a healthy bank balance as a result of the work of many members who have made toys and other items for sale by the club. We also made the significant purchase of a water cooled CNC router to our add to our equipment base.

Behind the scenes we have submitted an Expression of Interest with the Sutherland Shire Council for a 5 year lease of the adjacent Girl Guides Hall. We have been successful in that application and now look forward to the opportunities this brings to our Club. We will receive the keys to that hall on 17 December 2020. We can utilise the additional space to hold Maxi Days, have a permanent display of items the members produce, organise sales days for toys and items and gain some additional space for our activities.

I would like to recognise the continuous work of the executive team for their dedication. As President, I am fortunate to have this team and the advice they give for the benefit of the club.

My thanks to every member who has contributed to this club. In particular special mention is made of the following

- ♦ Graham Ethell for the hundreds of hours he spends as an exceptional secretary.
- ♦ Alan Ritchie for his continued work as Treasurer and never ending boxmaking for the Children's Hospital.
- ♦ Ray De Marco for his advice and for running the Plank Competition voting.
- ♦ Maurice Smith for his production of Sawdust and Shavings newsletter and for managing the Covid roster
- ♦ Barry Gardner and Malcolm Armstrong for organising toymaking and Hospital communication.
- ♦ Roger Dixon, Bob Quigley, Ray Tregoning and Dave Edwards for always stepping in when we need any engineering input or repairs..
- ♦ Richard Cain and Peter Mott for their work in catering and maintaining raffles and welfare duties
- ♦ Neil Mathews for his continued work on organising the storeroom and restoration of the Beam Drill.
- ♦ And special mention to Lyn Messenger, Regina McGrillen, Zdena Vondra, Elise Tipping, Karianne Lafrance for bringing some diversity and inspiration to our club.

Happy Woodworking Ian Rudd, President

Guides hall next door (for the time being known as the Eastern Annex) I'm sure some of the issues that we will face will cause us to scratch our collective heads; however it will keep us involved with the club and better able to serve our community more broadly.

So to all of our members and the non-member readership I wish you all a safe and healthy festive season and a wonderful 2021.

Maurice Smith, editor.

HOSPITAL NEWS

Hospital Collection 2 December

With the Randwick Children's Hospital still tightly locked down to prevent Covid-19 from entering, we were unable to deliver our Christmas goodies, so instead Janet and Matt from the Hospital's Music and Play Therapy Department came to us to collect the Christmas toys and therapy items. In all we provided 415 items! That's an amazing result considering the difficulties associated with Covid-19. Below is a photo of the items collected



Here's the list of items collected:

PET Scanner	1	Small vases	14	Santa on Stand	20
Keepsake Boxes	9	Rabbits lge cutouts	16	Paddle boat	2
Memory Boxes	10	Racing Cars	5	Hand Puppets	82
Star wands	6	Vases	11	Christmas Tree hanging—house	2
Truck Book Stands	3	Christmas Trees bent	19		
Carousel	1	Christmas Trees baubles	13		
Christmas Scene Laser lge	3	Christmas trees small	41	TOTAL	415
Trucks various (MS)	22	Dinosaurs etc	3		
Helicopter Lge	2	Christmas Laser cutouts	24		
Large Jigsaw Puzzles	8	Christmas Multilayer cut-outs	7		
Base black	1	Catamarans	4		
Hot Rods	5	Paddle Wheelers	3		
Farm Cutouts	19	Cabin boat	3		
T Model Ford lge	2	Small guitars	30		
T Model Ford small	1	Train & 3 carriages	4		
Narrow Tip Truck	1	Lilli Pilli Taxi large	1		
Play Dough Rolling Pins	17				

HOSPITAL NEWS

P.E.T. Scanner – Barbie sized model

Ray Tregoning reports “This all started with a request for a model to show the children what the PET scanner looks like and how the bed moves them in and out.



From some photos supplied I tried to make it look something the same. To start I needed a Barbie doll (a bit strange at my time of life). My neighbour's daughters loaned me one of their supply for the sizes.

I started with a quick drawing of full size on a sheet of cardboard with both side elevation and plan view.

To make the ends Ian and I cut a pattern on the laser from 6mm MDF to make 4 ends the same from 20mm thick Meranti I have had at home since the '80s. I used a 150mm plastic stormwater pipe coupling cut in half to make the inside tunnel. To join the arch together I used 2 ends with packing pieces glued around the inside 3mm back from the edge to give something to fix the 3mm MDF kurf cut @ 10mm centres cut to allow it to bend around the outside curve.

I made the sliding bed with a dovetail cutter to suit so it is captive in the base. A couple of coats of paint to look something like the colours of the unit. A piece of plywood to form a base to make the unit sit nicely on a table-top.

Very simple thing to make. I hope it helps the children understand what is going to happen.”

To all the staff and patients at Randwick Children's Hospital and Royal North Shore Hospital

We wish you all a wonderful Christmas and New Year that brings you joy and sees you in Covid-19 free environment.

Janet & Matt with some lovely work from David Edwards' wife

Along with toys, Janet and Matt also collected knitted items, such as, hand puppets (courtesy of Terry Murphy's Probus harem) and as pictured below, one of the lovely crochet items prepared by Julie Edwards. A big thank you to the various good ladies making these lovely items, whom we never get to meet.



Ray and Matt with the PET scanner



What is a PET scanner?

Editor here: I knew that the scanner was a machine in a hospital, not a machine for scanning your loved fur ball at home; however I didn't know anything more so I went to Google to help me. Here's what I found (courtesy of John Hopkins Medicine website):

Positron emission tomography (PET) is a type of nuclear medicine procedure that measures metabolic activity of the cells of body tissues. PET is actually a combination of nuclear medicine and biochemical analysis. Used mostly in patients with brain or heart conditions and cancer, PET helps to visualize the biochemical changes taking place in the body, such as the metabolism (the process by which cells change food into energy after food is digested and absorbed into the blood) of the heart muscle. ...

Sutherland Shire Family Services Donation



Report from Secretary, Graham Ethell relating to the donation delivery to Sutherland Shire Family Services

Malcolm Armstrong and I delivered 110 toys, (wooden and knitted), to Sutherland Shire Family Services at Jannali on 30 November 2020. As usual they were really grateful.

The above photo shows CEO Ashleigh with Malcolm and Graham and some of the laser produced toys.

The table opposite gives the complete list of items donated.

The other organisation the Club has supported for many years, John Franklin Christmas Lunch, is not holding their lunch this year.

Items Delivered	Count
Hand Puppets from Terry Murphy's Harem	10
Steam Engine	2
Santa Cutouts (laser)	4
Christmas Trees lge	2
Vase	1
Dinosaur cutout	1
Small Cars	5
Barbara Taffe knitted items	
Small Teddy Bears	10
Hand Puppets	9
Dolls	29
Christmas Trees small	25
Christmas Trees Medium	2
Reindeer on Stand	1
Small House (Christmas Tree hanging)	4
Money Box House	1
Pig Box	2
Fairy Door small	1
Fairy Door Lge	1
TOTAL	110

Charitable Toy & Therapy Item delivery count for 2020

Date	Delivered to	Item Count
25 Mar 2020	Sydney Children's Hospital Randwick	245
12 Aug 2020	Sydney Children's Hospital Randwick	312
7 Sep 2020	Royal North Shore Hospital	146
25 Sep 2020	Royal North Shore Hospital	20
30 Nov 2020	Sutherland Shire Family Services	110
2 Dec 2020	Sydney Children's Hospital Randwick	415
Grand Total for 2020		1,248

2020 Plank Competition

Introduction to the 2020 Plank Competition

As with so many other facts of life in the midst of a pandemic, this year's Plank Competition went ahead but with a modified process. The presentation and voting on the completed items was modified. The completed items were displayed at the workshop for a week and members came in and voted. At the end of the week, the votes were tallied.



Barry Gardner's 2 Intarsia pieces First place in Category A (previous winners of the Plank Competition) was Barry Gardner. He reports "Having entered every Plank Competition since its inception, mostly unsuccessfully, I have found the most difficult task has always been what to make; 2020 was no different. However as a result of the visit of Intarsia expert Kathy Wise, earlier this year, I decided to try an intarsia project from the plank."

I selected a couple of photos from "pinterest.com" and then had to determine the size. As my printer is only A4 size then the image and the actual intarsia could only be A4 in size. Then how to fit it to the plank size. I found I could use the full width of the plank for the frame and splitting the plank in half gave me sufficient to make the front of the frame with the piece cut out to assist in adding to the depth of the images to give the intarsia the 3D effect. That is using the 19mm thickness of the plank plus the 8mm of the cutout. There are about 40 separate pieces of wood in each image cut out on the scroll saw. Extensive use of the Dremel and hand sanding to mould all pieces to shape. Intarsia is generally made up of different species and colour wood pieces, however the Radiata Plank is all one colour. After experimenting with wood dyes I selected water based acrylic to add the colour necessary. The image and background finish was a couple of sprays of matt polyurethane and the frame gloss."

Geoff Tong's Puppy



In second place was Geoff Tong's Puppy. "The basic idea for this toy came from the internet."

The head and ears on the internet toy appear to be fixed so I decided to make mine moveable.

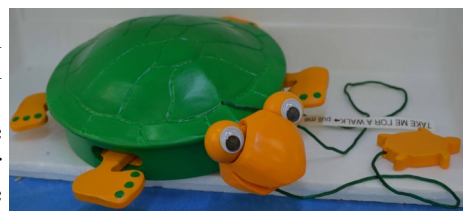
The ears can rotate 360 degrees whilst the head is restricted to approximately 45 degrees to the left and right. Most of the work for this toy is simple turning after the pieces of the plank is laminated to the desired thickness.

The challenge for me was to attach the moveable ears to the head without the screws being visible. Restricting the head to move only 90 degrees was frustrating but I finally did it after trying a couple of methods.

The front of the puppy looked a bit bland so I made a segmented collar instead of using the white pine. The toy is very sturdy and the ten different coloured rings made it a very attractive toy."

Malcolm Armstrong's Turtle

Third place was taken by Malcolm Armstrong's Crawling Turtle "In looking for a toy for the plank competi-



tion I found the plans for a 'pull-along' turtle. It looked like a challenge so I ordered the plans from the USA which, because of the size (five A1 sheets), came by post. When I first saw the turtle I thought I could make the shell on the lathe, thinking it was a circle. In fact it was created by 2 intersecting circles with their centres a little over 25mm apart to create the classic turtle shell shape.

The shell comprises 3 pieces of 19mm plank, however prior to gluing the lower piece had to be routed to give clearance for the running gear. After gluing, the shaping was done with a template in conjunction with a drum sander fitted to a drill and gradually sanding the contours on four diagonals. Because of the offset centres, the shaping needed to be applied to eight radii then finally overall shaping done to create the smooth turtle shape. The grooved 'turtle pattern' on the shell was done with a small burr mounted in the Dremel rotary tool. I now have a greater appreciation of my Wood Carving colleagues! The head's eye sockets were ground out using a 12mm ball shaped double cut burr on a cordless drill. The eyes were made on a lathe to create the sphere-shaped eyeballs.

(Continued on page 7)

2020 Plank Competition

The big challenge was to create the lower body which of necessity must also be of 2 intersecting circles. I had to work out how to create a rebate for the turtle's base which sits flush with the lower body. I laminated two pieces of plank, made a custom base for my router that could be moved into either of the 2 centres at the required radius, and then cut the rebate first before cutting out the outer part of the body. It worked! Unfortunately, the plans didn't give any clues about method!

The next step for the lower body was to cut openings for the legs, head, and tail. My wife thought the resulting shape looked like a tambourine! The head was shaped using a band saw, disc sander and as mentioned, the burr. What attracted me to the toy was the movement of the legs, the tail, the head and the eyes! So the need for running gear which is mounted on the base. Movement is created by transfer rods, cams, offset pins on the rear wheels and brass rods.

Extra traction on the 4 wheels was provided by wide coloured rubber bands that are normally used for tie dying. I used an air brush to apply the colours and then a quick drying varnish pressure pack to protect the acrylic paint. Some final adjustment was needed to be made to the moving components to ensure unrestricted movement. I'm happy with the result and trust it brings some joy and fun to whoever purchases my "Crawling Turtle"!"

Roger Walsh Trike and Trailer

Roger, club librarian, took fifth place. "My Trike and Trailer came from the Wooden Toy Manual available in the workshop library. I started the build back in April / May when the club had been closed due to the Covid. It was a very simple design but a bit difficult to make without the skills and machinery in the club.



The Manual contained plenty of pictures, a cutting list and explanation. The build is all screwed together, very little gluing. I used some wood plugs to conceal some of the screws, and made up a jig to allow use of sliced mitred joints in the cart. I had some trouble getting a good finish, with multiple applications of the donated Cabot's Stain and Varnish. A visit to a little company at Taren Point provided the wheels (free). Kept me busy during these bad Covid times."

Christmas Boxes by Ian Rudd



In fourth place in Category A, was Ian Rudd :

"I saw a Christmas Box that Tim Dodds was making and decided to make three from a plank. The plank was resawn using the new Hammer Bandsaw and the box parts were cut to size using the Saw Stop table saw and the Makita drop Saw. The Christmas theme vectors were taken from

the Internet and lasered to the ends and sides of the box. The corners were mitred using the Lock Mitre router bis and then glued and assembled. The lids were then "engraved to order" as part of our Wednesday Christmas sales and sold to some happy Lilli Pilli customers."

Ray de Marco's Boats



In sixth place in Category A, was Ray de Marco. "This year I continued my interest in making unpainted "Murray River Paddle Steamers" as toy boats, primarily for the Children's Hospital at Randwick.

With the corona "stay at home" and with more time I repeated this focus from last year with three paddle steamers, two with "smiling faces" and a variation of four catamaran boats, all unpainted. Two had small boxes in built so children could store some small items.

The steamers are of a flat bottom design, with the paddle wheels at both sides of the steamer positioned closer to the stern. They were powered by a steam engine, with paddle wheels with the outer edge fitted with spaced paddle blades to help them navigate the rivers at variable depths and tight bends.

Also, there is a speed boat influenced catamaran and three that ideas came from viewing the express catamarans that came from travel by ferry to Manly to meet friends. Hopefully there is motivation to paint them creatively and not to put them in water, as they are not buoyant and will sink."

2020 Plank Competition

Category B

Neil Mathews First place in Category B goes to Neil Mathews. "This years project was a first for me! It was almost made to a plan. I found a picture of this Trike on line with a small picture attached including dimensions. I needed to enlarge this picture to full size, so using one dimension and dividing the actual dimension by the size of the dimension in the picture, I got the required enlargement of 530%. Since my photocopier has a maximum of 400% it required two enlargements. However, while the shapes of the parts were OK some enlarged dimensions were almost impossible to read. This led to dismantling the job after it was finished because the front of the Trike was 20mm too high & it looked like **!#/?@^)&**. It was a difficult job after cutting the pivoting dowel and the front fork to accurately re-drill the 16mm holes for the dowel.

The rear assembly is glued and secured with a large woodscrew that is hidden with plug cut from the same timber. The two steering washers were a challenge being 50mm diameter, 6mm thick, with a 16mm hole through the centre. I cut two 50mm discs with a hole saw and glued these to a scrap of timber that gave me enough material to clamp and drill the 16mm hole. I then cut the 6mm thick washers with my drop saw.

I mixed up the stains I had available at home and was pleased with the results. The project is finished with many coats of Anchor satin clear spray paint.

I hope some 2-3 year old gets as much pleasure out of this Trike as I got in making it."

Photo of Neil's winning item is on page 13, bottom right.

Tim Dodds

Third place in Category B was Tim Dodds: "This year I got motivation for the plank competition from my 1 1/2 year old granddaughter and her love of books. Basically, I created a cart in which a selection of books could be towed by the child. I set up my plans for the portable library on Excel maximising the use of the timber size. To achieve anything of reasonable size I first had to split the plank and then my plans would work. Once I had a layout I then increased/decreased the size to use all the timber allowing for saw cuts and basically leaving just sawdust.

I wanted to give the library some character that would appeal to children and was initially going to do a dog, but loved the idea of creating a curly cat tail. The construction was fairly easy with some plank pieces used to increase glued area and increase structural strength. After sanding I opted for a painted finish with pastel pinks, creams and greys - so that it appealed to the child, but also the fashion sense of the Mum. All up everything came from the plank except for a piece of rope and the dowel axles.

Once finished, I showed it to my granddaughter who immediately started pulling the library cart around our lounge room!



David Edwards

Second place in Category B was David Edwards: "The plans for this lawnmower are from Canadian Home Workshop and I'd previously made one for my grandson. This one was made at home during lockdown when the club was closed. The wheels are circle cut on a tablesaw, and the uprights are laminated 3mm



strips of pine with the curves glue formed in a shaped clamping form and domino joined at the top to provide strength.

I don't have a lathe, so I experimented with "turning" the handles on my drill press and while it kind of worked I don't think I'll be trying that method again. It's finished with two different stains to provide contrast and topped with a polyurethane spray.

Kids love the noise the mower makes as it's pushed along with noise maker blocks swinging back and forth against the cross dowels making a rhythmic clack-clack sound."

Steve Lansley

Fourth place in Category B went to Steve Lansley: "Both the dragons and the birds are made from patterns out of the Scrollsaw Woodworking & Craft quarterly magazines. Each was cut out on the scroll saw and then finished; the birds in Ubeaut dyes and the dragons in gloss enamel."



2020 Plank Competition

Bob Quigley



In fifth place in Category B, Bob Quigley “I had built a garage out of plywood for my grandsons for their hot wheels cars, and I was thinking, what a good idea for the Plank Competition.

I slightly changed the plans I had drawn up to fit the available plank size, this time I made the roof removable to allow access to the inside of the garage. I remember the mobile flying red horse on the petrol stations when growing up so with the aid of our wonderful laser added the wonderful graphics. I hope whoever receives the garage get a lot of joy playing with it.”

David Whitney

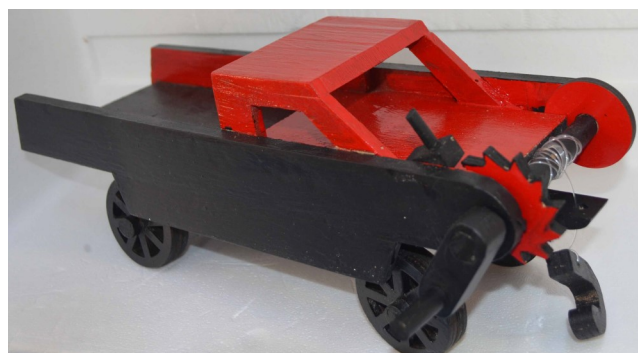
In second place in Category C was David Whitney



with his rocking seat. David told me that the design for this item came from his childhood memory which he converted into a design that delivered a lovely child’s rocking seat.

Maurice Smith

In third place in Category C, was Maurice Smith with his off-road truck.



“The design for this truck came from one of the wooden toy design books in the club library. The real challenge in the truck construction was the independent suspension. The suspension uses thick rubber bicycle tube cut across ways and then doubled up. Due to the very limited access to the internal underbody assembling attaching the suspension was a cause of considerable angst, however, by dint of perseverance and use of very narrow tools eventually I was able to position the suspension in place.

The black finish of the truck was acrylic craft paint, several coats were needed; and the red was gloss enamel, again several coats were needed.”

Category C

Bob Winwood’s Forklift and Tow truck



In first place in Category C Bob Winwood made a Fork Lift and Tow Truck. “This was my first attempt in the plank competition, I found it a lot of fun although stressful at times. The hardest thing is trying to decide what to make but luckily I found some toys in one of the books in the library at the club.”

Bunnings Gift Cards for the winners



A big thank you to our Bunnings for their donation of the gift cards for the winners of the Plank Competition.

PLANK COMPETITION HONOUR ROLL

	<u>First</u>	<u>Second</u>	<u>Third</u>	<u>Fourth</u>	<u>Fifth</u>	<u>Sixth</u>
2004:	Les Noble	Bob Davis	Tie Bill Lewis & Fred Seligmann			
2005:	Roger Dixon	Barry Gardner	Bert Willemsen	Fred Seligmann	Ken Phillips	Bob Davis
2006:	Ray Schofield	Roger Dixon	Barry Gardner	Bob Davis	Ken Phillips	Trevor Nicholson
2007:	Tie Ray De Marco, Peter Stanbury & John Steadman (Joint entry)					
		Barry Gardner	Tie Bill Lewis & Ray Schofield			Stan Rowling
2008:	Bob Davis	Barry Gardner	Roger Dixon	Ken Phillips	Peter Stanbury	Ray Schofield
2009:	Barry Gardner	Bob Davis	Ray Schofield	Roger Dixon	Graham Ethell	Peter Stanbury
2010:	Bob Davis	Ray Schofield	Barry Gardner	Bill Lewis	Alan Ritchie	Ray De Marco
2011:	Roger Dixon	Ray Schofield	Bill Riley	Peter Stanbury	Tie Bob Davis & Graham Ethell	
2012:	Bob Davis	Ray De Marco	Ray Schofield	Roger Walsh	Brian McMahon	Alan Ritchie
2013:	Ray Schofield	Graham Ethell	Warwick Tame	Ray De Marco	Roger Dixon	Geoff Tong
2014:	Roger Dixon	Warwick Tame	Ron O'Malley	David Whitney	Bob Davis	Barry Gardner
2015:		<u>First</u>	<u>Second</u>	<u>Third</u>		
Category A		Warwick Tame	Bob Davis	Graham Ethell		
Category B		Ron O'Malley	Roger Walsh	Bill Riley		
Category C		Steve Lansley	Malcolm Armstrong	Gordon McDonald		
2016:						
Category A		Warwick Tame	Roger Walsh	Graham Ethell		
Category B		Geoff Tong	Steve Lansley	Malcolm Armstrong		
Category C		Ian Rudd	Bob Quigley	Neil Mathews		

CHANGE TO TOYMAKING PLANK COMPETITION

	<u>First</u>	<u>Second</u>	<u>Third</u>
2017:			
Category A	Roger Walsh	Geoff Tong	Ray De Marco
Category B	Malcolm Armstrong	Ian Rudd	Steve Lansley
Category C	Regina McGrillen	Glen Reeves	Gary Halder
2018:			
Category A	Graham Ethell	Bob Davis	Roger Walsh
Category B	Ian Rudd	Steve Lansley	Bob Quigley
Category C	Robert Leake	Neil Mathews	Maurice Smith
2019:			
Category A	Geoff Tong	Roger Walsh	Malcolm Armstrong
Category B	Robert Leake	Bob Quigley	Regina McGrillen
Category C	David Edwards	Tim Dodds	Gordon McDonald
2020:			
Category A	Barry Gardner	Geoff Tong	Malcolm Armstrong
Category B	Neil Mathews	David Edwards	Tim Dodds
Category C	Bob Winwood	David Whitney	Maurice Smith

Lots more space for woodworking!

A NEW ERA FOR THE SHIRE WOODWORKING CLUB—A SIGNIFICANT INCREASE IN SPACE HAS BEEN LEASED

Club Secretary, Graham Ethell reports “The Shire Woodworking Club was formed in 1998 and commenced with few members, not much money and even less equipment. We met a few times each month in a shared facility at Oyster Bay.

In 2011 The Club was able to lease the existing Workshop premises for its sole use. At that time, we had 55 members, a small amount of money in the bank and about 6 or 7 quite basic woodworking machines.

As all members would be aware, the Club has had tremendous growth since then, with currently 93 members, 15 woodworking machines (mostly larger and of much higher quality than the previous ones), a great dust collection system and very healthy finances. However this growth has its downside, in that there can be significant crowding at times with no opportunity to expand the footprint of the building.

About a year ago the Club was made aware that the lease of the Guide Hall (adjacent to the workshop) to the Guides was to expire in December 2020, and as the Guides had no Guide troop, it might be possible for the Club to acquire the lease. As a result, your Committee submitted a proposition to Council in April this year. Subsequently we have had a number of very productive discussions and on-site meetings with Council officers to discuss the prospective lease of the Guide hall and the future opportunities this would provide.

This culminated with Council advertising in October for interested community organisations to submit an Expression of Interest (EOI) in leasing the Guide hall. The Club submitted an EOI, with very detailed reasons as to why our EOI should be accepted, should there be other applicants.

We are honoured and extremely grateful to

Council for the recent advice that, after “assessing submissions received against the EOI criteria” our EOI has been successful. This gave the Club the opportunity to lease the Guide hall for a five year term from 17 December 2020. The lease has been signed and we are to take possession on 17 December 2020.

This is a fantastic opportunity for the Club to set itself up for the future. Initially the building will be used amongst other things for meetings, lunches, and storage and display of finished goods, also quiet work when necessary. This will enable us to reconfigure the existing workshop to relieve overcrowding by providing significant additional working space and storage facilities.

The Shire Woodworking Club would like to formally record its appreciation to the management and staff of Sutherland Shire Council for their very professional assistance during the year, including but not limited to:

- Preliminary assistance with suggestions to optimise the use of both buildings and add significant value to both sites, should the Club be successful in obtaining the lease of the Guide hall,
- Consideration of the Club’s EOI, and
- The acceptance of the EOI and offer of a lease of the Guide hall under very attractive lease terms, including the very generous low annual rental.”



Guide Hall (aka Eastern Annex)

Current workshop

Lots more space for woodworking!



Some photos of the interior of the Eastern Annex. This will be the scene of the 2020 Christmas Party!



SHOW & TELL

David Whitney, resident Luthier showing his latest banjo



David's has finished *King Billy* his latest masterpiece. Pictured at left. In the November edition your editor speculated that this item (then a work in progress) might be a guitar. Wrong, wrong; no it was a banjo. My apologies. A lovely instrument indeed.

Pictured at right is David, once again demonstrating his luthiering skills, this time with *Prince Billy*; a smaller version of *King Billy*. This one is still a work in progress.



Gary Mitchell has finished 2 cutting boards in time for Christmas



For club members who don't know Gary, he is a Saturday attending member only. He's a hard working member in full-time employment



paying his taxes. I have been privileged to watch Gary working on these boards for quite some time. Gary was adamant that I show you the edge engraving of his boards. In case you can't read the text it says *Grand Gaz Designs*.

Yes, Gary does aspire to the name *Grand Gaz*.

Peter Mott is creating saw dust



Seen in the workshop recently was Peter Mott hard at work sanding down a lovely slab of timber to be turned into a coffee table. Hard working Peter was working on this slab on behalf of our oldest member, Doug Wickens (99 years young and still going). Peter was not absolutely sure what the timber is, but it's a gorgeous slab.

Peter, we want a photo of the completed item, in due course. Over to you Peter.

Cabots Stains and Varnishes

In the October 2020 Newsletter (page 8) we reported that we had received a fabulous donation of 500ml cans of Cabots Stains and Varnishes. We advised that members could come to the workshop to collect some of the cans for their own use. Thus far, many members have done so, however we still have over 50 cans available for members to collect. As a reminder, there are both oil-based and water-based stains and varnishes.

Neil Mathews Plank Competition Category B winning entry



coming Up!

Club Calendar

December 2020							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			

January 2021							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							

Legend:

	Committee Meeting 12:30pm Own projects catered for before & after meeting.
	Club Days -
	Toy Making Day - No own projects

First Saturday of the month is Wood-carvers; they have exclusive use of the workshop.

Members with Birthdays in December

Day	Member
6	Alan Hendry
9	Gary Mitchell
10	Robert Quigley
12	Kevin Gowen
16	Gary Halder
16	Jan Westerhof
25	Stan Kirkman
27	Michael Green
28	Nikolaos Karadoukas

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

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.

MAXIDAY SET TO RESUME IN FEBRUARY 2021

Provided that Covid-19 doesn't come back and cause us to change our schedule. I'm sure every member will be hoping that our meetings are able to resume, as scheduled.

Have you booked for the Christmas Party on 19 December 2020?

Seating is limited to 40 members (alas no spouses).

Booking is mandatory.

Email mauricemsith2230@gmail.com or text/phone 0414 538 475 to make your booking. Only a few spots still available.

Librarian's Report

We have received the latest Annual Issue of the Fine WoodWorking Tools & Shops.

A great issue so take a look. Interesting section on 'Setting Up and Using a Shoulder Plane', a 'Hedgehog Featherboard (HH-30) allowing a total height of 2 1/4 inch stock, plans for a "good tool chest", "Crosscut Sleds for Joinery", "Wall-Mounted Dust Collectors", a "Hand-Tool Buyer's Guide" and plans for a "Folding Outfeed Table". Will have it at the club from Saturday 5th December 2020.



Christmas Sales Bonanza

Our annual toy sales stall outside the workshop in November and early December every Wednesday this year was blessed by both good weather and an outstanding result. This year's sales almost doubled the previous best year (2017). Next year's sales will have a very high bar to exceed. Some of the results can be attributed to additional publicity.

Graham Ethell lead an excellent team of club members who were there every Wednesday early morning in setting up and late afternoon in taking down the sales stall; and also the talented club members who contributed the items on sale. Well done all.



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