

**OFFICE BEARERS:**

**President:** Ray De Marco  
**Vice President:** Alan Ritchie  
**Secretary:** Graham Ethell  
Telephone 9522 7674  
**Treasurer:** Bill Lewis  
**Auxiliary Positions:**  
**Assistant Secretary:** Roger Dixon  
**Assistant Treasurer:** Alan Ritchie  
**Project & Training Sub-Committee:** Bob Davis,  
Stan Kirkman, Peter Mott, Alan Ritchie,  
Andrew Ryan, & Warwick Tame.  
**Librarian:** Andrew Ryan & Roger Walsh  
**Safety Officers:** Roger Dixon, Alan Ritchie  
Warwick Tame Ken Tyson & Bill Lewis  
**Welfare Officer:** Peter Mott  
**First Aid Officers:** Graham Ethell & Alan  
Ritchie  
**Newsletter Editor:** Barry Gardner  
**Assistant Newsletter Editors:**  
Ray De Marco & Fred Seligmann  
**Catering Officers:**  
Richard Cain, Trevor Lewis, Ken Tyson &  
Kevin Winter  
**Equipment Officers:**  
Bob Davis, Alan Ritchie, Roger Dixon, James  
Windschuttle Ian Rudd & Ken Tyson  
**Raffles:** Peter Mott  
**Exhibitions Sub-Committee:**  
Bob Davis, Ian McRae, Graham Ethell, Fred  
Seligmann (media) & Kevin Winter  
**Property Sub-Committee:** Richard Cain,  
Graham Ethell, Bill Lewis & Ken Tyson  
**Toymaking:** Barry Gardner, Roger Dixon, Ian  
Rudd, Warwick Tame, Ken Tyson & Kevin  
Winter  
**Woodcarvers' Liaison:** Kevin Winter

**If you cannot  
fix it with a  
hammer you  
need an  
electrician**



**SPRING FAIR**



This is the third year the Club has had a stall at the Gymea Village Fair. Although we desperately needed rain, we were quite happy for the day to stay fine and sunny and rain on Monday (which it did!). There were huge crowds all day – the Gymea Chamber of Commerce estimates a total of around 50,000 people. We had a very successful day overall, with sales just under last year's, but a big increase in raffle ticket sales.

We received plenty of compliments on the work we do to support underprivileged kids, with a number of people saying they have seen articles about our Club in "The Leader". We also received enquiries for special orders and many enquiries from prospective new members, so it is well worthwhile attending this Fair just for the publicity generated.

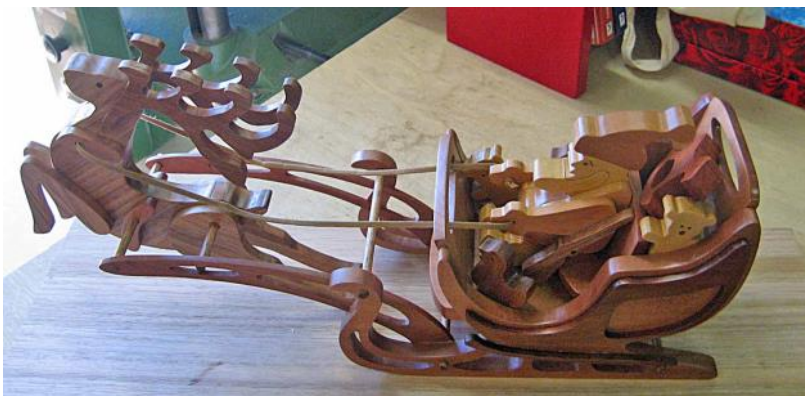
In addition a couple from Gymea have donated a Shopsmith machine to the Club as a result of seeing our work. Bill Lewis has described this type of machine as something he would have given an "arm and a leg for" years ago! We are very grateful to Dennis & Elsa Fox for their most generous gesture.

We have also been offered continuing quantities of various types of timber offcuts from a staircase manufacturer.

Thanks to everyone who assisted to make the day a success, either by making things to sell or helping on the day or both. Special thanks to Ken Tyson, Richard Cain, Warwick Tame, Fred Seligmann, Ian McRae, Gary Mitchell, Kevin Winter and John Lischeld, who all helped out for all of part of the day.

And an extra big thank you to Warwick for making and donating the "Santa Sleigh" which attracted considerable interest, with the resultant excellent profit from the raffle. Because of the great interest in the raffle and the generosity of people buying tickets we considered it appropriate to place a small ad in "The Leader" on 31 October thanking our customers and advising the winning ticket number.

*Graham Ethell*



**MEMBER PROFILE:****KEVIN GOWEN****#266**

Kevin was born at Arncliffe, Sydney in 1942.

His education began at the Bexley Primary School followed later by the award of his Leaving Certificate at the Kogarah High School,

During his working career Kevin qualified for his degree in Education

He began work in 1958 as an apprentice cabinetmaker in a career heavily engaged with all things wooden.

Following seven years as a Cabinetmaker he joined the Department of Education as an Industrial Arts teacher, then five years later he moved his career sideways and back to his specialty of Cabinetmaking (*but now teaching it*) at TAFE (Department of Technical and Further Education).

Kevin then reskilled as a Shopfitting teacher then Head Teacher and was promoted to Deputy Principal at Gympie TAFE College and later St. George TAFE College at Kogarah.

He and wife Jennifer have two sons.

Since joining in 2012 Kevin has helped us to make the most of our machinery on Club Days.

Sandwiched between his hobbies of Fly Fishing, Sports Cars, Aircraft, Golf, Tennis and Travel he still manages to keep his woodworking skills honed with home maintenance and handyman work.

His completed projects include, making Home furniture, general woodworking, building projects and art framing (for Jennifer).

The next planned exercise is to be a timber fly box for one of his sons who is also a keen fly fisherman.

*Fred Seligmann*



Our Club has recently purchased and installed a new Triton Router in one of our tables. This router has the above table winding system. If you have not yet used this system then you do not know what you have been missing. Once used you will start counting your pennies with the idea of buying one. Have a go when next at the Club. You will have

to be on the end of the queue.

## MAXIDAY: SATURDAY 9 NOVEMBER, 2013...AGENDA

- 8:45am Open Lilli Pilli Workshop
- 9:00am Monthly Meeting
- 9:45am Morning Tea .
- 10:15am Show & Tell
- 10:45am Let us burn a picture into a piece of wood (pyrography) with the help of Fred Seligmann.
- 12:00am Lunch .
- 1:00pm Raffle Draw
- 1:15pm Continue with Pyrography Members own projects.
- About 4:00pm Close

### Library Matters

With Christmas just around the corner and perhaps the thought of making some toys for the needy, I thought members may be interested in some help from our library. We have a number of books by Richard Blizzard. We have several of his books with ideas and instructions, eg More of Blizzards Wooden Toys, Making Wooden Toys, Blizzard's Outdoor Toys and Blizzard's Wooden Toys. The 'Making Wooden Toys' publication provides plans and instructions for 12 projects including a Paddle Boat, a Sand Digger, a Rocking Horse and a Go-Cart and Trailer. Each plan has a comprehensive cutting list, dimensioned plans and instructions.

We also have several other publications that may be useful, ie Tremendous Toy Trucks by Les Neufeld with step-by-step instructions and plans for building 12 trucks, Making Heirloom Toys by Jim Makowski, Simple Wooden Toys by Ron Fuller and Cathy Meeus and The Toymaker by Andrew Calder.

If you are thinking of making a toy, perhaps these books will provide some inspiration.

All the best from the library.

*Roger Walsh*

**MEMBERS!** If you have a pyrography (woodburning) kit or equipment at home then please bring it along this Saturday 9 November to Lilli Pilli Workshop. Pyrography is the theme for the day and we need the gear to supplement our Club's equipment.

***Please do not forget!!!!***

### Raffle Prize Winners

#### OCTOBER 2013 MAXIDAY

- |                            |         |
|----------------------------|---------|
| 1st Prize: Alan Ritchie    | \$25.00 |
| 2nd Prize: Doug O'Hara     | \$15.00 |
| 3rd Prize: Peter O'Connell | \$ 5.00 |



# Silky Oak *Grevillea robusta*, commonly known as the

southern silky oak or silky oak, or Australian silver oak, is the largest species in the genus *Grevillea* of the family Proteaceae. It is not closely related to the true oaks, *Quercus*. It is a native of eastern coastal Australia, in riverine, subtropical and dry rainforest environments receiving more than 1,000 mm per year of average rainfall.

It is a fast-growing evergreen tree, between 18–35m (59–115 ft) tall, with dark green delicately dented bipinnatifid leaves reminiscent of a fern frond. It is the largest plant in the *Grevillea* genus, reaching diameters in excess of 1 m (3 ft). The leaves are generally 15–30 cm (6–12 in) long with greyish white or rusty undersides.

Its flowers are golden-orange bottlebrush-like blooms, between 8–15 cm (3–6 in) long, in the spring, on a 2–3 cm long stem and are used for honey production. Like others of its genus, the flowers have no petals, instead they have a long calyx that splits into 4 lobes. The seeds mature in late winter to early spring, fruiting on dark brown leathery dehiscent follicles, about 2 cm long, with one or two flat, winged seeds.

Silky Oak has always been sought after by cabinet makers for its distinctive grain patterns.



In February this year as reported in that months Sawdust & Shavings our Club received a donation of timber from Kelvin. Members will recall that Kelvin was in the midst of building a 7.25inch scale steam locomotive in his backyard workshop just down the road from our Clubhouse. Well this month Kelvin has come up with a further donation of timber. This time a large quantity of beautifully seasoned Silky Oak. While collecting this wood, for which we are most grateful, we had a further inspection of the progress of the steam engine. The latest addition is the firebox. (see photo at left). The finished engine should look something like this when finished. What



also intrigued us during this visit is the stand upon which the engine is being constructed. The stand has to be mobile, carry at least half a tonne in weight, be able to be self propelled and have almost infinite height adjustment and this is just to carry the engine. Well Kelvin proudly advised that his grandson built the stand as his Higher School Certificate project. See photo at right.

Anyway back to the Silky Oak. Ian was first to use some and has produced four beautiful boxes for the Club, two of which are seen in photos below. Barry then turned a couple of bowls for the club also pictured below. The bowls were turned



with simple lines to allow the grain and patterns from the silky oak to be the "Wow" factor.

We still have a number of planks of up to 2.5metres in length and some other shorter thicker material from which the bowls were turned.

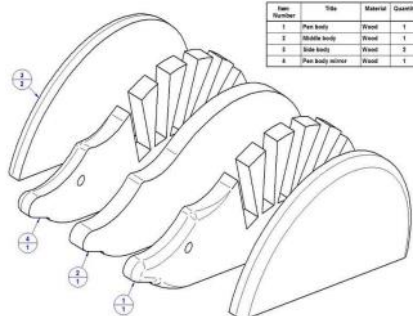
Our thanks go to Kelvin for this generous donation. Apparently the tree was planted by his grandfather was about 60 years old when it was felled some 20 years ago.

.....continued next page



# Silky Oak *....continued from page 3*

There were also some smaller pieces of silky oak that were made into Echidna Pen & Pencil Holders for the Children's



Part Number	Title	Material	Quantity
1	Pen body	Wood	1
2	Holder body	Wood	1
3	Pen body	Wood	5
4	Pen body holder	Wood	1

Hospital and other of our charities. This pen and pencil holder design called for 5 scroll sawn pieces as seen in diagram at left. Your editor attempted to cut out the design using radiata pine without

success. Seeing the Silky Oak scraps the Echidna was redesigned using only three pieces. Then came the discussion at morning tea how to cut 10 9mm holes in the centre piece each at different angles and in two rows.

After which Treasurer Bill produced the jig on the drill press seen below. With a paper template to determine the hole spacing the jig worked at treat.

With a little sanding and gluing, the inclusion of eyes and coloured pencils and crayons we completed the group seen below



Our most used timber in our Club would be Radiata Pine. It is a good general purpose wood and is easy to work. It is a soft wood, quickly grown and does not lend itself to fine work. This was most demonstrably demonstrated when making these Echidnas. Using the fine grained hardwood Silky Oak the job was done far quicker, needed far less sanding, was able to be cut on our smaller bandsaw rather than on the scroll saws and produced a much better finished result. Why mention this? Our Club should never reject donations of quality hardwoods when offered it is worth its weight in gold.



## The Al Usherwood Award of Excellence

Each year for the last 11 years we have honoured one of our late members with an **Award of Excellence**. This award sponsored by our Club was offered to members of the Clubs who were resident at the Cubby House at Oyster Bay. Your Committee in 2012 determined that in future years the award will be offered to members of Clubs who reside at our Lilli Pilli Workshop. Members therefore of these Clubs are offered to submit one or more wood items they have finished during the 2013 year at our meeting at the Lilli Pilli Workshop this year on Saturday, 14 December, 2013 for judging by the panel of judges. Please see the rules below.

So we look forward to you submitting that masterpiece and getting your name on the honour board for posterity.

### THE RULES

- The competition will be held annually and will be called "The Al Usherwood Award for Excellence".
- The judging panel will be Bruce Leadbeater, Bill Lewis, and Alan Shoebridge.
- Should any of the judging panel enter any category of the competition or a casual vacancy exists, a replacement judge will be appointed by the other members of the judging panel for that occasion.
- Without precisely defining "Excellence" the entries will be judged according to the very highest standard and no award will be issued if, in the opinion of the judging panel, those standards are not met.
- The competition will be open only to financial members of the two clubs which are:
  - 4.1 The Shire Woodworking Club Inc
  - 4.2 The Woodcarvers Club
 and includes their successors and assigns.
- Any item(s) made primarily of wood is eligible for entry but must have been made by the member and been finished within the previous twelve months and can only be entered once.
- Items are eligible for entry to any section of the competition and entrants are to nominate the category for each entry submitted.
  - Best toy
  - Best item or setting of furniture
  - Best art piece
  - Best utility piece
- The Al Usherwood Award for Excellence will be given to the winner of one of the four categories above if the standard is considered to be high enough.
- Prizes will be as follows:
 

The name of the annual Excellence award winner will be recorded on a plaque mounted on a large wooden shield affixed in a prominent position on the wall of the Shire Woodworking Club premises.
- The winner will be presented with a Certificate of Excellence. A Certificate of Merit will be awarded to the winners of the other categories.
- Entries are to be submitted to the Shire Woodworking Club Inc at the Lilli Pilli Workshop on, or before, 10:00AM on Saturday 14 December 2013. Suitable security arrangements will be made with the owners while the entries are with the Shire Woodworking Club. Judging will be completed on that date. Items are to be collected after the judging on that day.
- Each entrant should complete an entry form which will include the details required in paragraphs 6 and 7 above. Entry forms will be available from the Secretary.





# Toymaking

Our theme for October was toy making and WOW! was it a success! The Sydney Children's Hospital, Randwick, Sutherland Shire Family Services, Project Youth and the John Franklin Christmas Lunch will be pleased as the beneficiaries. Here are photos of some of the items produced. Others, such as Kevin's Trucks, Guitars, Drum Sticks etc. are still in production, Bill Riley has taken on making a dozen or so of the large wooden doll's.



Your Toymaking Committee met in September and looked through different toys plans that were available on the net. They found two set of plans that they thought would work for our supported charities and they were purchased, The first was "Bobsy Car Kids" and the second "Carpet Buddies". Ian got stuck into making these items from American Oak offcuts. The Bobsy Cars are seen in photo above right and the Carpet Buddies seen in photo above left. Also some additional fendered cars were completed by Barry as well as some trains by Treasurer Bill (to John Field's design) as seen at back of photo above left. Ian also kept busy and produced these articulated grasshoppers.



Barry also replenished the Club's supply of "Jacobs Ladders and French Knitting kits seen above. Bill Riley also produced some scroll sawn puzzles seen in photo at right.



In connection with the Christmas theme these scroll sawn Santa, Sleigh and Reindeer created a problem in that a gold coloured cord was needed to connect each piece together. Secretary Graham or more correctly Lorena came to the rescue. Many thanks Lorena. We should not forget the Echidna Pen & Pencil holders, Warwicks Santa Sleigh nor the many scroll sawn Christmas themed and other items made by the Scroll Sawers including Sam, Lynne, Glen and Warwick.





# SHOW & TELL OCTOBER 2013



Richard showed this Condiment Caddy he had made for his son



Ian showed the Silky Oak boxes he had made for the Club. See story on page 3.



Barry produced these two additional sets of salt and pepper shakers for the Club. The set at left is Huon Pine and Australia Red Cedar left in sanded only state. The set at right are made from Jacaranda and finished with Triple E and Glow..



No Richard is not wielding an offensive weapon. It is our new "U'Beaut" metal detector.

We ask members to use it before any wood is put through the thicknesser to detect any metal that may be embedded in the wood being thicknessed. We have of recent times suffered damage to a number of spiral cutter teeth due to nails and screws in wood being thicknessed. The teeth are not cheap. Also please ensure you turn off the detector when finished with. Many thanks.



Peter showed us this box made to house paperwork for his "other" hobby, amateur radio. He also showed the book stand for family use.



The sewing box was seen recently on display at the Ian Potter Gallery in Melbourne. It was made by (attributed to) George Thwaites & Son of Melbourne circa 1845. It is made of Blackwood, paper, velvet, brass, bone, mother of pearl, metal, glass, cardboard, porcelain, sterling silver, aluminium, silk and other materials.

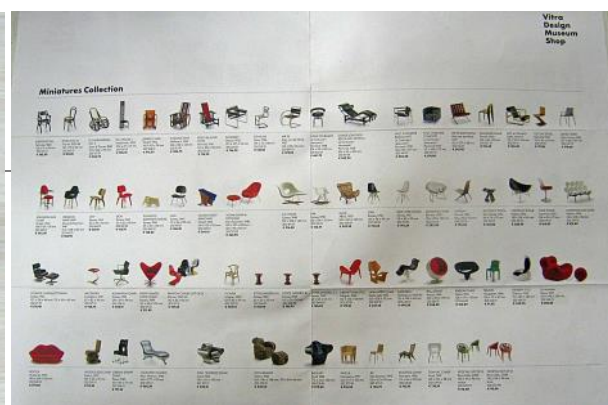
The box is in magnificent condition for something that is around 167 years old.

It does show the quality, durability and longevity of items made from quality Australian timbers. One wonders how long a sewing box made of plastic will last?



**Do not forget our sales stall at our Lilli Pilli Workshop on each Wednesday during the month of November 2013. Come along bring your friends and buy those Christmas presents you need.**





Bob, one of our recently returned overseas tourists, brought along this miniature chair from the Vitra Design Museum. The Museum's Website advises "The Miniatures Collection is celebrating its birthday. It was exactly 20 years

ago that the Vitra Design Museum in Weil am Rhein began making miniature replicas of milestones in furniture design from its great collection. As a kind of summary of the history of industrial furniture design – moving from historicism and art nouveau to the new objectivity of Bauhaus and radical design, and from postmodernism all the way up until the present day – the collection has grown to include more than 100 pieces. The chairs are all one sixth of the size of the historical originals. They are all true to scale and replicate the originals right down to the smallest details in construction, material and colour. Thus, not only have the design's key points been translated in the miniature versions, but details such as materials, the natural grain of the wood, the reproduction of screws and elaborate handicraft involved have also been taken into consideration. All of this has made the pieces in the Miniatures Collection into popular collector's items. At the same time they provide people who are interested in culture and design with insights into the history of the environments that we create."

There is an additional Wow! factor when viewing these collectible pieces. The chair Bob is holding is on sale for 179.40 Euros or about \$265.00. Other items in the miniature collection are priced from 29 Euros (\$42.00) to 866.30 Euros (\$1280.00). Fred you are under pricing your doll house furniture.

## The Australian Botanic Garden, Mount Annan

We recently went to the Australian Botanic Garden (formerly the Mt Annan Garden) for the first time in many years. Coincidentally it was the first day that a new Plant Bank building was open to the public.

This was built at a cost of \$20 million and is said to be "an internationally significant centre for plant research and learning, incorporating the largest native plant conservation seed bank in Australia. Just as we need a bank to safeguard our money, so we also need a bank to safeguard our plants".

The amount of hi-tech equipment was impressive as was the huge displays of all aspects of plants and seeds. The photo shows just one of the many seed display trays.

This is well worth a visit if you are in the area. It is also worth

while making a day trip just to see it. If you want to read even a part of what's there you need to allow up to 2 hours. Gardens are at Mt Annan - take the Camden exit from the M31 Hume Freeway and follow the signs.

*Graham Ethell*



If you would like to receive this Newsletter please email the editor at  
[shirewoodworking@bigpond.com](mailto:shirewoodworking@bigpond.com)

## WHAT'S ON!

**Saturday, 9 November, 2013**

*Let us burn a picture into a piece of wood (pyrography)*

*Show & Tell*

**Tuesday, 12 November, 2013**

*Club Day, Lilli Pilli Workshop*

**Wednesday, 13 November, 2013**

*Club Day, Lilli Pilli Workshop*

**Saturday, 16 November, 2013**

*Club Day, Lilli Pilli Workshop*

**Tuesday, 19 November, 2013**

*Committee Meeting*

**Wednesday, 20 November, 2013**

*9:00am Club Day, Lilli Pilli Workshop*

*7:00pm Woodcarvers Meeting*

**Saturday, 23 November, 2013**

*Club Day, Lilli Pilli Workshop*

**Tuesday, 26 November, 2013**

*Club Day, Lilli Pilli Workshop*

**Wednesday, 27 November, 2013**

*Club Day, Lilli Pilli Workshop*

**Saturday, 30 November, 2013**

*Club Day, Lilli Pilli Workshop*

**Tuesday, 3 December, 2013**

*Club Day, Lilli Pilli Workshop*

**Wednesday, 4 December, 2013**

*Club Day, Lilli Pilli Workshop*

**Thursday, 5 December, 2013**

*Handover of Toys to the Shire Charities*

**Saturday, 7 December, 2013**

*Woodcarvers Meeting*

**Tuesday, 10 December, 2013**

*Committee Meeting*

**Wednesday, 11 December, 2013**

*Club Day, Lilli Pilli Workshop*

**Saturday, 14 December, 2013**

*Al Usherwood Award Judging*

*Christmas Lunch*

*Show & Tell*

**Tuesday, 17 December, 2013**

*Club Day, Lilli Pilli Workshop*

**Wednesday, 18 December, 2013**

*9:00am Club Day, Lilli Pilli Workshop*

*7:00pm Woodcarvers Meeting*

**Saturday, 21 December, 2013**

*Club Day, Lilli Pilli Workshop*

**Tuesday, 24 December, 2013**

*Club Closed*

**Wednesday 25 December, 2013**

*Club Closed*

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Since my previous report we have been involved in two external activities namely the Gymea Village Fair and the Bunning's Sausage Sizzle at Taren Point.

Interestingly we were successful in both and that is not just in monetary terms. Firstly with Gymea, Graham Ethell advised that there were large crowds all day and our stand attracted a lot of interest. This was our third year where we were recognised again and visitors saw the variation and creativity exhibited in our timber works of art. This resulted in good sales and a great increase in our raffle ticket sales. Graham reported on the awareness of our club, in particular with goodwill that was recognised by our support to those local charities that work with disadvantaged children. Similarly, we have now generated an awareness and interest in our club from a membership viewpoint and also we are seen as a resource to satisfy the needs of locals with special requests in recognition of our timber working skills.

With our Bunning's sausage sizzle we were busy on a very hot day, particularly starting around 12:30. We had large queues at that point and good queues continued through to around 3:00PM winding down with consistent numbers to 4:00PM. So, in a financial sense it was a good day but to me I received a very interesting and genuine comment from a member who spent for his first time, an afternoon with us. The comment was to the effect that he did not realise the amount of effort involved in the planning, logistics and the effort that is involved with the dedication of the same small number of members. As a recent retiree he is very motivated to join in our activities. Finally, it is important to make a special mention of appreciation to three members. They are Ken Tyson, Richard Cain and Ian McRae in recognition of their dedication and attendance to make both venues successful.

In closing a reminder. We have on the agenda such matters as the coming Al Usherwood Competition and our Xmas "toy give aways" to our local Charities, both in December. Last year that involved the Sutherland Shire Family Services, Project Youth represented and the John Franklin Christmas Lunch. Additionally we have our Toy sales in November, so let's have plenty of stock. With the AL Usherwood Competition we changed the rules slightly to allow items that were made in previous years but only finished this year to be included, so bring your prized wood items. *Ray De Marco*



During October we farewelled one of our foundation members and former President, Peter Stanbury. Peter and his good wife Jan are moving to the Southern Highlands. The Club signed a farewell card and presented Peter with a "Genie Vase" turned from a piece of Camphor Laurel as a memento of 15 years of Club membership.



Both items were presented by President Ray.

We wish Jan and Peter all the best in their new home at Bowral.