

**OFFICE BEARERS:**

**President:** Ray De Marco  
**Vice President:** Alan Ritchie  
**Secretary:** Graham Ethell  
Telephone 9522 7674  
**Treasurer:** Bill Lewis  
**Auxiliary Positions:**  
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**Assistant Treasurer:** Alan Ritchie  
**Project & Training Sub-Committee:** Bob Davis, Stan Kirkman, Peter Mott, Alan Ritchie, Andrew Ryan, & Warwick Tame.  
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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

**AN ALTERNATE METHOD OF  
MAKING DOVETAIL JOINTS USING  
THE LEIGH JIG**

The Leigh Superjig comes in three sizes 12", 18" and 24" (300, 450 and 600 mm) where the size indicated the maximum width



of the board that will fit in the jig. The 18" jig I demonstrated is about \$525 - the base Gifkin jig (one template and set of cutters) is about \$400. The jig as purchased can make variably spaced through & half-blind dovetails and finger joints. The infinitely adjustable one piece fingers are easily positioned for any dovetail joint pattern and you are always guaranteed a half pin at each edge of the joint, regardless of board width. The jig is easily adjusted for any board thickness using easy to read scales on the jig (for half blind dovetail joints). You can also make sliding dovetail joints.

I use the jig for through dovetails when I have a board width unsuitable for use with the Gifkin Jig and for half blind dovetails. The Leigh jig also is great for producing fewer dovetail pins for a more hand cut appearance. In my demonstration the box timber could have fitted 4 pins (which is what the Gifkin Jig would do) but we decided on the day to cut just 3 pins. To cut through dovetails, mark the outside of the two box ends which will have the pins and the inside of the two box sides which will have the tails. Place one of the box sides in the jig flush against the left side stop and clamp it tight. Ensure the jig finger assembly is in the through dovetail mode (showing at each end the letters TD Pins and a drawing of through dovetails) and with the tapered fingers pointing away from the jig. Adjust the fingers so the outside two fingers are evenly located at the ends of the board and then adjust the middle finger so the spacing looks OK - the spacing is not critical. Tighten up the grub screws on all the fingers to prevent them moving while using the router. Fit the dovetail Leigh bit and a 1/2" guide bush to the router. Rotate the finger assembly over to the TD Tails mode and tighten it in place with the "All" position on the scales at each end of the finger assembly. Adjust the height of the bit to be slightly greater than the thickness of the box ends. Place the router on the finger assembly and run the router in and out each finger to cut away the timber between the tails. Repeat for the other end of this box side, keeping the inside markings away from the jig. Repeat for the second box side.

Rotate the finger assembly to the TD Pins mode with the assembly on the 13mm setting (This setting is constant for each jig for the particular dovetail bit used - it can be changed to a higher reading to tighten the joint or reduced to loosen the joint). Fit the straight Leigh bit to the router with the 1/2" inch bush still in place. Adjust the height of the bit to be slightly greater than the thickness of the box ends. Clamp the box end with the side markings away from the jig and flush against the left stop of the jig. Place the router on the finger assembly and run the router to cut away the timber, ensuring you run the router up against the fingers to get an even and complete cut. Repeat for the second end of this side, keeping the side marking out. Repeat for the second box end. The box can now be assembled. This is a great jig for custom dovetails.



*Alan Ritchie*

*PS: Many thanks Alan for a great demo. Ed.*



**AND YOU THINK YOU HAD A BAD DAY!**

**If you have some spare time you can cut this out on the scroll saw**

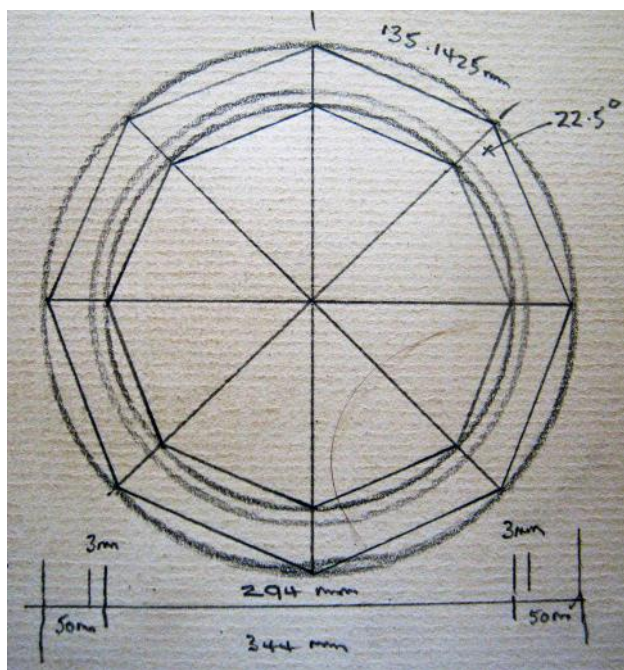
## A Question of $\pi$

A question was asked at the Lilli Pilli Workshop recently as to how to calculate the size of the wood pieces one needs to cut to make an octagonal frame to house a round tapestry.

Let us look at an example. Let us say the tapestry has a diameter of 300mm and the wood frame profile is 50mm wide. Therefore if we allow 3mm of the frame to overlap the tapestry then the diameter of the external frame would be 300mm minus (2 \* 3mm) plus 50mm or 344mm.

The circumference of the frame would then be calculated as  $\pi$  times the diameter or  $22/7 * 344\text{mm}$  or 1081.14mm. Therefore to make an octagonal frame divide the 1081.14mm by 8. It then means that each piece of frame has to be 135.1425mm each.

If each of these pieces is then cut at an angle of 22.5 degrees one will hopefully end up with a nice neat tight octagonal frame.



### **MAXIDAY: SATURDAY 8 FEBRUARY, 2014...AGENDA**

8:45am	Open Lilli Pilli Workshop
9:00am	Monthly Meeting
9:30am	Show & Tell
9:45am	Morning Tea .
10:15am	Video Demonstration
10:45am	Presentation of Certificates to the Al Usherwood Award winners
11:00am	Biscuit Jointing with Bill Lewis. No doubt Bill will be helping members make that special cutting board
12:30pm	Lunch
1:15pm	Ballot for Planks for the 2014 Plank Competition
1:45pm	Raffle Draw
2:00pm	Biscuit Jointing continued Members own projects
About 4:00pm	Close



Our cooks hard at it at our January Maxiday

## **FUTURE PROGRAM**

### 8 March 2014

- ◆ Half blind dovetail joints -- Alan Ritchie
- ◆ Guest Speaker David Ackroyd. Sutherland Shire Council

### 12 April 2014

- ◆ Box making and box lids -
- ◆ Possibility Ian Rudd and Stan Kirkman to speak on timber types

### 10 May 2014

- ◆ Scroll Saw Puzzles – Warwick Tame
- ◆ Jig presentation TBA

### 14 June 2014

- ◆ Making a Wall display (Shadow box) cutting joints
- ◆ Stan Kirkman and Warwick Tame to speak on some appropriate wood finishes

All of the above to include a Video either on safety or a related topic to the Maxi-day activity.

Any members with ideas as to what would be good for a Maxiday theme should make contact with any of the members of the Projects Committee. They would be only too happy to consider your suggestions.

### **Raffle Prize Winners**

### **JANUARY 2014 MAXIDAY**

<b>1st Prize:</b>	<b>Graham Ethell</b>	<b>\$25.00</b>
<b>2nd Prize</b>	<b>Roger Norman</b>	<b>\$15.00</b>
<b>3rd Prize</b>	<b>Ian Rudd</b>	<b>\$ 5.00</b>



# Toymaking

We are pleased to report that the "HOPE TREE" pictured below is ready for delivery to the Sydney Children's Hospital Randwick.

We are in the process of making the other major request item from the Hospital "the MRI Machine bed slide simulator."

Bill is currently constructing the dome. Once this is completed we can then get onto making the bed slide and frame.

We are looking to make delivery of both these items to the Hospital on Thursday 27 February, 2014. The Toymaking Committee has also thought that as Easter is coming up quickly we should make some appropriate toys to deliver to the Hospital at the same time in February. To this end we have prepared some Easter items ready for any members interested in cutting out. Lynne has been busy on the Easter Egg



Puzzles and Glen has started on the Easter Bunnies. More starters need!!!!

Of course we will also be delivering to the Hospital any of our usual inventory of Play Therapy items that will be available at the end of February. Thanks to all helpers.

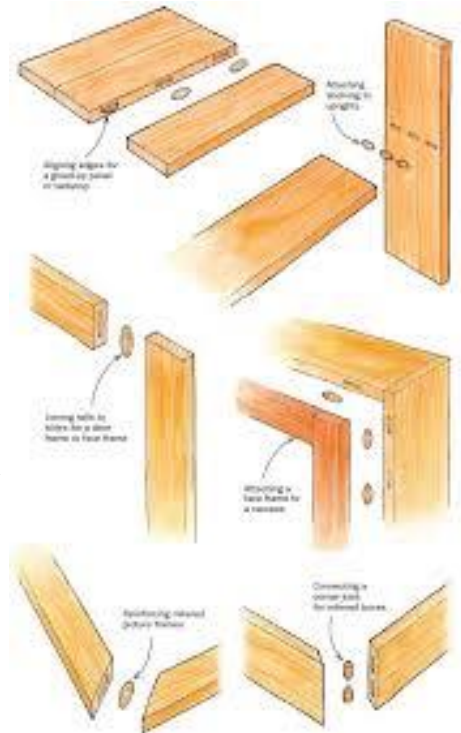


## BISCUIT JOINTING

Bill Lewis is going to lead us through the joys of Biscuit Jointing at our forthcoming Maxiday on Saturday 8 February 2014. There are many methods of joining two pieces of timber together from nails, screws, butt, mitre, dowel, domino, dovetail, finger and of course biscuit. No doubt Bill will explain why we use biscuits in preference to other forms of jointing. This could prove a lively debate. What would be your preference?

Biscuit jointing requires a machine of sorts to make the inserts for biscuits. Also biscuits are a propriety line that requires their purchase. A biscuit is constructed in a way that makes them anhydrous. It is preferable they are kept in airtight containers before use. Once glue is added to the biscuit the biscuit will take moisture from the glue and the surrounding wood and expand into its slot to make a tight fit.

Most manufacturers of woodworking power equipment including Ryobi, Carbatec, Ozito, De Walt, Makita, Bosch etc. market a biscuit jointing machine and cost from around \$50.00 to \$550.00. Biscuits cost from 15cents each depending on the quantity purchased at the time. Here are some of the machines on the market.



www.sydneytools.com.au



### PLANK COMPETITION RULES FOR 2014

We extend an invitation to all financial members of the Shire Woodworking Club Inc. to enter the 2014 Plank competition.

At our January 2014 meeting 27 members signified their interest in entering into the 2014 competition. Accordingly, the planks have been purchased on this number and are of Radiata Pine of select grade quality. (This apparently is one step down from "clears" and one step above furniture grade). They are approximately 2400mm long x 290 mm wide and 19mm thick. The ballot for the planks will take place at our Maxiday on 8 February 2014. This does not, however, exclude any late entries as we are very flexible. So should any member like to enter there will be some spare planks available for them. If we run out we will buy more.

#### Summary of the Rules

1. The competition is to improve skills and to have **FUN**.
2. There is no restriction on the number, size, type and design of the item(s) that are eligible for entry other than the design is to comply with any relevant or associated safety regulations and made from the plank provided by the Club.
3. Registration is flexible, see comments above.
4. The planks will be available for collection on or after our Maxi Day Saturday, 8 February, 2014
5. Items may include metal fixings providing that they are restricted to the use of hinges or catches (with their screws) and clock movements or are required for item's integrity. Items can include wood carving and woodturning as part of an entry
6. Items may include other related matter such as glue, dowels, biscuits etc. for jointing etc. provided they do not exceed approximately 5% collectively of the overall item. Items may also include related matter of an aesthetic nature such as veneer, decals, glass etc., again provided they are not dominant and fall within the 5% requirement.
9. It is acceptable to finish the items with oils, lacquer, poly products, paint etc.
10. Entries must be by an individual who is a financial members of the Club.
11. A "consumption" of all of the plank received should, where practical, be undertaken by all entrants. Any leftover pieces shall be returned to the Club.
12. The finished items shall be complete and available for judging on our Maxi Day 9 August 2014 giving a six (6) month period to finish your masterpieces. The articles made and submitted to the Competition shall become the property of the Club to sell or otherwise dispose of at the Club's discretion.
13. Failure to submit an entry will result in a payment by the member to cover the full cost of the plank supplied. Refer to Rule 21.
14. It is a requirement that winning entries be entered into the Al Usherwood "Award for Excellence" competition held later in the year.
15. At the Maxiday judging on 9 August, 2014 each entrant will be given 2 minutes (approx.) to describe their item/s to members prior to judging.
16. Judging will be undertaken by all members present on our Maxi Day 9 August 2014
17. Members present on the Maxi day above will be provided with a voting sheet to judge the items on 4 areas namely;
  - (a) Do they look good?
  - (b) Do they function as intended?
  - (c) Are they well constructed?
  - (d) Have they been well finished?
 Each member shall give a mark from 0 to 10 for each of the four categories referred above for each entry (2 or more items collectively) and after all presentations of the articles the winner and two runners up shall be determined.
18. The winner, with the highest number of votes and the two (2) runner-ups will be awarded Prizes; (six bottles of wine (or equivalent) for the winner and three bottles each for the two runners up. A further 2 bottles of wine shall be awarded to the next 3 winning entries.
19. There will be one additional "novice" prize awarded this year of 6 bottles of wine for the member whose item/s achieve the highest number of votes. A Novice is defined as a member who has not received a 1st, 2nd or 3rd prize or a novice prize in any previous Plank Competitions and is therefore additionally eligible to win the overall prize in Rule 18 above.
20. Members may purchase their item/s from the club at full cost. The Plank cost this year is \$36.00.
21. The projects committee shall determine disputes (exclusively) with their decision being final and not subject to challenge.

### List of entrants in our Club's 2014 Plank Competition at time of going to print.

Alan Ritchie	Alan Stubbs	Barry Gardner	Bill Riley
Bill White	Bob Davis	Brad Van Luyt	Brian McMahon
David Whitney	Doug O'Hara	Gary Halder	Geoff Tong
Graham Ethell	Ian Rudd	Ken Tyson	Kevin Gowen
Michael Green	Paul Holdsworth	Peter Mott	Peter O'Connell
Ray De Marco	Ray Schofield	Roger Dixon	Roger Walsh
Ron O'Malley	Stan Kirkman	Sophie Jacob	Warwick Tame

Good Luck to all!!!





Gary dropped into our Lilli Pilli Workshop pre Christmas wanting some help. Bill, Roger and Ken were on hand to assist. Obviously the following Email received by your editor tells the tale.

*"Hi Bill and fellow woodworkers,*

*I have attached a couple of photos of your handy-work. Without Shire Woodworking assistance this project would still be unfinished. Thank you, Thank you, Thank you.*

*We started with one very sad old pool. It was built over forty years ago.*

*Structurally the concrete had sagged and moved, causing cracks and concrete cancer.*

*The deck had rotted and the old galvanised post and rails were rusty and dangerous.*

*With some major TLC we have transformed the entire pool and surround. But the absolute stand-out..... is the POSTS!"I have been asked many times...Where did you get those posts made?"*

*I have been a little reluctant to tell the whole truth as I don't want to see a queue at the front door of your workshop. Got to love short lines!*

*The good news is everyone loves them... The bad news is Melisa (my better half) wants the same posts around the balcony, when we renovate????*

*Will drop-in and thank you personally. Gary."*



Am intrigued why the NSW Government railways would bother to have a stop signal that has a sign pictured above telling drivers to take no notice of it. Anybody any ideas???

## Letter to your Editor from a former member.

Dear Barry,

Hope you are well - Happy New year! Thanks for keeping me informed of the Club's progress - much appreciated.

Don't get too much time to do any woodwork at present. However I recently completed a couple of bushcraft projects using some wood

which I got while still attending the Club regularly - not sure what sort it was but it came as a small grey-brown section about 25 mm x 150 mm x 200 mm. I've attached some photos which may be of interest to members.



The first project involved making handles for a ferro rod (fire steel) and striker (fire making tool beloved by Bear Grylls). The lanyard is a 4-way braid of kangaroo leather, with a button of the same wood.



The second project was the handle for a knife blank using wood, leather and bone. I also made a sheath for the knife.

Best wishes  
Carsten



## Library Matters

We have received the Feb 2014 (Issue No 238) of Fine WoodWorking magazine. Some interesting articles:

- Tools and Materials – High-end bandsaw that won't break the budget, Grinder has the best tool rests and Fast-Action Hold-Down Clamps

- Fundamentals – Low-Tech Mortising

- Handwork – Three ways to clamp a drawer

- Feature Articles – Bowfront Wall Cabinet, The Best Bits for Pattern Routing, Don't Fear the Hand-Cut Dovetail, Build a Louisiana Creole Table, Secrets of Steam-Bending, Easiest Finish Danish Oil

- Tool Tests – Coping Saws,

- Master Class – Installing knife hinges in curved work

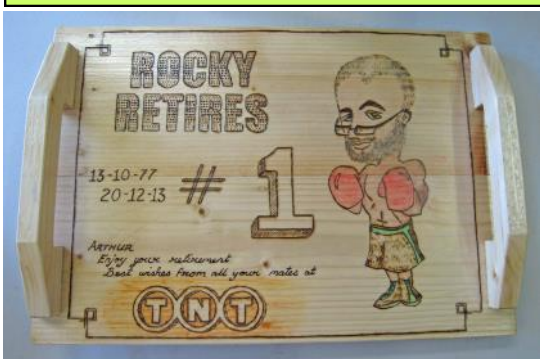
Magazine will be in club library from next Monday (03 Feb).

We have been trying to find a buyer for the duplicate copies of the Australian Woodworker mag we have in the library. While it looks like we have a large sale to a West Oz gent, we still have many duplicate copies. Can you let me know, by end Feb, if you would like to take some issues or, in the interest of saving space, we will dispose of them. All the best for 2014.

Roger Walsh



# SHOW & TELL JANUARY 2014



Ray has been at it again making this retirement gift for a workmate.

How many paragraphed trays have you made Ray?



This plaque was made (from Tasmanian Oak) to hold the fighting cocks feet steady and to stop them falling over in the wind, damaging our Teak buffet cabinet top

It was not possible to accurately trace around the feet from the top so I taped HD clear plastic sheeting on the bottom of the feet & drew the shape with a fine Black DVD marker, cut the shape with curved nail scissors then transferred to the timber plaque. The footprints were then cut into the plaque using a Dremel with router attachment borrowed from Barry Gardner. Finished by staining with Cabots Teak & several coats Danish Oil. *Roger Dixon*

## WHAT IS IT???



Ron brought along a couple of old tools for Show & Tell. The first, pictured below, was an attachment for a hand brace to enable holes to be drilled around corners. However another attachment for a brace had us all guessing. Have you any ideas?

We think it is a tool to taper a round end on spokes for wooden cart wheels. Both tools are still in good working order. Anybody any idea of their age?



Ian made this beautiful unusual cutting board. It was made from Walnut and American Oak.



Peter showed us this versatile desk easel made for his mother.



Barry has been asked to make a set of "Disk Bowls" pictured at left. Apparently it is a game most favoured by members of the Recreation Vehicles Club. The disks shown are turned from 30mm MDF. Members expressed concern about the possible toxic dust that would be created while turning the MDF disks. As the disks have to be relatively heavy and relatively balanced has any member any ideas as to

an alternative to MDF? Barry is needing suggestions.

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





Barry showed us this imperial and metric dowelling jig gifted to the Club by a friend from Probus, John Faulkner. Many thanks John.



Ron showed us a couple of spoke shaves specifically designed by him for some boat building project. Ron made the patterns then arranged for their casting.



This item is being delivered to Southside Gourmet Meat at Ramsgate Beach Plaza tomorrow 30 January, 2014 so won't be able to bring to Show & Tell.

This is #3 of I don't know how many more.

The stand is used to display painted eggs during Greek Easter.

Made of 6mm plywood from template supplied and copied. The crosses are cut with 6mm router bit and widened out with sandpaper about the thickness of a credit card to suit the paint thickness

Finished with 16 mist coats spray undercoat and 8 mist coats spray enamel. *Roger Dixon*



Alan has received the latest order of Router Collet reducing bits from Gifkins. Reduction is from half inch to quarter inch.

These have proved an excellent reducing collet and our Club is now well stocked. Also a number of members were interested in purchasing one. So if you were please see Alan with your money.

Up Tenterfield way is a very historic house. Stannum House (Latin for "Tin") is pictured at right. This house was built in 1888 by a Mr John Homes Reid. It was designed by Italian architects in the latest and grandest style of the era. It is built on a foundation excavated down to granite bedrock then set on granite blocks to give maximum stability.

The house and its residents have some unique history. The owner Reid was very involved in politics after making his money tin mining. Apparently Sir Henry Parkes was not an infrequent visitor. At one stage it was suggested that the Queensland/NSW border be moved to include Tenterfield in Queensland and Tenterfield would become the seat of Federal government in an attempt



to induce Queensland in joining the Federation of States. It was also suggested that if this did take place then Stannum House would become the Governor General's Residence. As we know Canberra won out in end (1901) and Queensland did not get Tenterfield.

During the 2nd world war the Dept of Defence took control of the house for it to become Headquarters for the "Brisbane Defence line" from the invading Japanese. However the Coral Sea battle prevented that. It then became a military hospital with Mr Reid's tin assaying laboratory being turned into a penicillin producing laboratory.

One of the many features of this residence is the magnificent Australian Red Cedar spiral staircase pictured at left. This staircase goes from the second floor to the third floor and up to the roof garden.

Story has it that Mr Reid arranged for a number of locally grown cedar logs to be shipped to Belfast, Ireland in or around 1887 where the Company that later on fitted out the unsinkable "SS Titanic" made this staircase, boxed it up and shipped it back to Australia complete where it was installed in Stannum House in 1888. It is showing some wear on the stair treads but otherwise is in excellent condition after 125 years of use.

If you are up Tenterfield way this place is worth a look see.

## WHAT'S ON!

**Saturday, 8 February, 2014**  
*Biscuit Jointing*  
*Show & Tell*

**Tuesday, 11 February, 2014**  
*Club Day, Lilli Pilli Workshop*

**Wednesday, 12 February, 2014**  
*Club Day, Lilli Pilli Workshop*

**Saturday, 15 February, 2014**  
*Club Day, Lilli Pilli Workshop*

**Tuesday, 18 February, 2014**  
*Club Day, Lilli Pilli Workshop*

**Wednesday 19 February, 2014**  
*9:00am Club Day, Lilli Pilli Workshop*  
*7:00pm Woodcarvers Meeting*

**Saturday, 22 February, 2014**  
*Club Day, Lilli Pilli Workshop*

**Tuesday, 25 February, 2014**  
*Club Day, Lilli Pilli Workshop*

**Wednesday, 26 February, 2014**  
*Club Day, Lilli Pilli Workshop*

**Saturday, 1 March, 2014**  
*Woodcarvers Meeting*

**Tuesday, 4 March, 2014**  
*Committee Meeting*

**Wednesday, 5 March, 2014**  
*Club Day, Lilli Pilli Workshop*

**Saturday, 8 March, 2014**  
*Half Blind Dovetails*  
*Speaker Sutherland Shire Council*  
*David Ackroyd*  
*Show & Tell*

**Tuesday, 11 March, 2014**  
*Club Day, Lilli Pilli Workshop*

**Wednesday, 12 March, 2014**  
*Club Day, Lilli Pilli Workshop*

**Saturday, 15 March, 2014**  
*Club Day, Lilli Pilli Workshop*

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**Wednesday 19 March, 2014**  
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**Saturday, 22 March, 2014**  
*Club Day, Lilli Pilli Workshop*

**Tuesday, 25 March, 2014**  
*Club Day, Lilli Pilli Workshop*

**Wednesday, 26 March, 2014**  
*Club Day, Lilli Pilli Workshop*

**Saturday, 29 March, 2014**  
*Club Day, Lilli Pilli Workshop*

**Tuesday, 1 April, 2014**  
*Club Day, Lilli Pilli Workshop*

## PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT

As projected last month our Workshop frontage underwent the first of a three stage improvement project with the completion of brickwork, road base foundations, garden areas with soil and the laying of pavers to form a patio/courtyard area.

Thankfully, this was done with the combined support of our local state member Mr. Mark Speakman with committed Grant funds and the supply of pavers from the Sutherland Shire Council. At the time of preparing this report we have had visits from Council who are happy with the paving work so we are at the point of further discussions with them to improve that area from their pedestrian walk way to our joined section in the front of the pavers. That activity with the finishing of the hard surfaces with say, lawn will form our last stage. In the interim it will be left to us to top up the paved area with sand, produce a landscape effect, make a selection of shrubbery, mulch and the placement of same. A special thanks again to Graham Ethell who co-ordinated and communicated with everything associated with this project.

At the start of each year, around this time we distribute equal supplies of quality timber to those of our members who are interested in participating in our Annual Plank Competition. The entries for this competition are judged in August. With the assistance of Roger Dixon we canvassed the interest of our members and for those who declined we asked them to express their views and comment on why they did not want to be a participant. The feedback was interesting. In broad terms we have the same number financial members as last year and around the same number of positive responses that accounts for 44% of those who we managed to contact. There was a relevant number of around 13% who lacked some confidence in deciding what to make and have the ability to produce a quality finish. It will be the responsibility of our Committee to generate some ideas to address this by providing a framework for those members who would like training and/or assistance that will be educational and fun. There was a high number of 29% who advised they were too busy but it is difficult to ascertain whether some of these may be in the 13% category. Certainly the quality of the items produced has been steadily improving and varied. This makes it a challenge however it is important to participate so that we continue to have our club vibrant and interesting. The Plank Competition forms part of those aims and needs to be encouraged and have greater participation.

Lastly, praise to Barry Gardner and Ian Rudd. They have responded positively to two special requests from the Children's Hospital at Randwick. One, for the time consuming design and cutting production of a large "Hope Tree" made up of a sheet of marine ply 9mmx1200x1800. The Hope Tree will be delivered in February and it will be used for children so they can place their wishes and hopes on the branches. The second request is for a MRI Tunnel and simulation slide bed to assist the children in being scanned. The tunnel is presenting a challenge in design with the canopy, travel constructions etc. so it will be presented to members to assist in this creation with some practical ideas. The aim is to have the tunnel presented to the hospital with other items at Easter time. *Ray De Marco*

**Have you decided what to make with your plank for the 2014 Club Plank Competition? If you have not put your name down to enter, it is not too late. See Roger. The ballot for the planks will take place this Saturday 8 February. You will have until 9 August to complete your masterpiece. Plenty of time!!!**