

## Our 2016 Year

We are now at that time, as in previous years, where we reflect on our last twelve months. It is an important addition to our history. We not only record our achievements as a community conscious team it also helps to generate ideas and plan for the future. Lastly, it also is an essential recognition of those individuals and organisations who have continued to support and assist us over this time.

To begin, we are pleased to convey that we have had another happy and successful year in that we have functioned well in an agreeably good manner as individuals, in our operational committee meetings and importantly as a co-ordinated team in our toy making and community support.

We have reached an early stage of maturity in a number of ways that will be visually conveyed in this document. One is the noticeable development of skills in our members in the use of an expanded range of high standard equipment. This was achieved mainly through the member to member transfer of knowledge and training as evidenced in the finished items. The second is with the realisation of our needs in terms of acquiring safe, practical Workshop equipment, in a healthier environment. Lastly there is a proactive course of actions to identify and introduce upgrades to our safety procedures on an ongoing basis. The above have been driven in part by the regular monthly viewing of informative sourced “how-to” and safety videos on our wall mounted TV. Lastly, there are the strong, long term relationships with the charities we support and the friendships we have with the local community.

The above could not be achieved without the support of those whom we consider to be close friends who represent external organisations. These are Councilor Carmelo Pesce, Mayor of Sutherland Shire, Mark Speakman SC MP, and State Member for Cronulla, Kerry Duroux, Manager of the IMB Bank, Cronulla, David Ackroyd, Manager Communities Unit, Sutherland Shire Council and lastly the Hon. Scott Morrison MP. It is very pleasing that they have been in regular contact and visited us at various times. The continued financial support of our Shire Council has allowed us to achieve a much safer work environment and this year we received a capital outlay for a much needed kitchen upgrade, one that we will undertake ourselves. Also, close friendships have been made with those in the Shire Charities and the Sydney Children’s Hospital we support all of whom have openly expressed their joy and gratitude.

The following content contains a selective and representative display of images and words as a history related to the strengths of our club. Those strengths as mentioned above such as: - The teamwork in the pages following “Our Family & Community Support”, showing our response to a variety of deserving requests that take time along with the more time consuming wooden and soft toys given to Charities. The increasing skills of members are seen further in the pages “Diversity of Interests”, showing the variety of output and quality of their woodworking.

### **Knights of St George Heart Association**



A very warm appreciation and thanks was extended to us during a visit to our workshop in September. Seen at right is the Secretary, Susan Leahy and President, Dr. David Horton with Richard Cain (the maker). They visited us to receive a donation box for their fund raising activities. It was appropriately laser engraved with their Associations logo, name and with the words "with heartfelt thanks".

Their Association is not for profit and is very closely attached to the Cardio Thoracic Surgery Unit at St. George Hospital. It does rely solely on grants and donations to help source funds for new equipment for the unit.

Dr. David Horton has visited our Club on previous occasions at Oyster Bay and was pleased to see the growth and progress made with our Club as evidenced with the variety of our equipment and attendance of members in our new premises.



### **A VERY SPECIAL PROJECT**

We were given a small but very important request for a purpose built table for a special little girl. Given the circumstances of this request it was perceived as an interesting project and enthusiastically undertaken by our super craftsmen Ian Rudd and Ray Tregoning.

Shown in the image is the small table with folding legs that was built by Ian and Ray. Its design was specifically for the needs of a family who have the little four year old girl called Josie. Josie has a very rare condition called FoxG1 and her condition is one of impaired development from birth. It is complex; Josie is unable to walk or speak and has involuntary movements of her limbs together with a difficulty in learning to sit unaided or without being restrained.

The specific design of the table shows a timber rim as an elevated edge of timber around the laminated table top and has fold away legs. The edge is to help prevent her toys and learning aids falling to the floor caused by her involuntary movements. Josie, seen here in a poncho is playing with a sensory play liquid that would normally be spilt around her on their floor. The fold away legs assist in storage as she needs more than one table with each one having legs with a different height for her respective seating and to position her closely to the table. The table was very warmly appreciated by her parents Sara and Scott.



### **A COMMUNITY REQUEST**

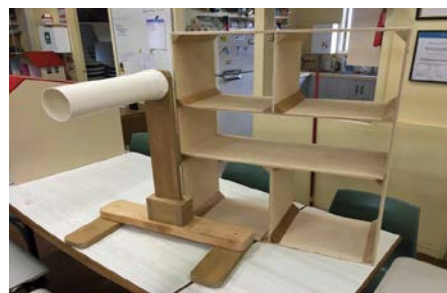
A gentleman came to the Lilli Pilli Workshop front door with two chairs with broken arms that his wife tried to repair and gave up. He unfortunately had a recent stroke and was unable to fix them himself. The arms had been separated so Roger and Ian drilled out the dowels where the arm fits into the back and fitted new ones then screwed the other end to the base. Both ends were also glued with a two-part boat building glue."



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### AN ENLIGHTENED SOLUTION

A request came from David Ackroyd, Manager Communities Unit, Sutherland Shire Council asking to help the Seniors Activity Unit who amongst other things provides lighting around the Shire over the Christmas period. The problem was that the leads of lights in the past were just rolled up after use and put in a steel cupboard for the following year that becomes tangled. The solution was that they obtain some four large cable rollers so the lights could be rolled on the rollers and then stored in a purpose built metal box for next year. So Ian Rudd and Ray Tregoning made a roller stand and wooden inserts for the box, to evenly and securely store the leads. The box is seen here inserted into their metal container



### MENAI RURAL FIRE SERVICES

This volunteer group made a request for us to build a display cabinet for the RFS Captains helmet, Ian, Roger and Ray obliged. The two cabinets seen below were presented to them in June. Our Club then received a Certificate of Appreciation in recognition of our support.

### HOPE TREE FOR THE ROYAL NORTH SHORE HOSPITAL

items.

*The following is one very good example of the hours and teamwork devoted in donated toys and gifts that are not reflected in the number of*

The Child Life Therapists at the Hospital admired the “Hope” trees we have made for Randwick and asked if we could make one for them. Member Ron O’Malley, procured a donation from Gary, Michael and Jo at Kitchen Panel & Supplies in Taren Point of large sheet of 12mm ply for which we thank them. Steve Lansley, picked it up and with Barry Gardner drew up the tree on the board and he, Steve and Ray Tregoning set about the task of cutting it out. Steve and Ray then rounded off all edges and gave it an undercoat of paint. Hours and hours of work are seen with the finished item at right.





## Christmas Toy Give Away Monday 28<sup>th</sup> November 2016

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We held our annual "Community Christmas Toy Give Away" at the Workshop and as usual it was a relaxing, fun day for all especially to see and experience the gratitude of our three Shire Charities. It was our fifth (5<sup>th</sup>) Give Away to be celebrated at Lilli Pilli and our eighteenth (18<sup>th</sup>) in total for our Club.

Ray De Marco opened the meeting in the morning and on behalf of all our members he extended a very warm greeting and commented that it is very pleasing to see a good attendance that included Official Guests, member wives and members on this a very special day

Ray then welcomed our Official guests, namely Councillor Carmelo Pesce, Mayor of the Sutherland Shire, Mark Speakman SC MP, State Member for Cronulla and Kerry Duroux, Cronulla Branch Manager of IMB Bank who individually received a loud applause. Ray then expressed an appreciation of their presence particularly as all three have very busy schedules and noted over the years that Cr Pesce and Mark Speakman had both been to our Club on a number of occasions and their support and genuine interest was greatly appreciated

In turn he welcomed our Shire Charities namely; Lola Hearn, Sutherland Shire Family Services at Jannali, Dianne & Mike Batty, John Franklin Christmas Lunch at Sutherland, Graeme Duncan, Chairman Kingsway Community Care Inc., known as Platform Nine and Barbara Taaffe who is the prolific knitter of the dolls and animal soft toys

The wood items and knitted soft toys that were on display were made to their specific requests & needs of the charities and Ray advised that Project Youth at Miranda whom we have supported for many years have changed their direction. As a consequence they have not focused as much on children, so there is not the need for toys for this year. On display was 126 items, a decrease on last year, due their reduced needs.



Our Vice President, Malcolm Armstrong then invited our guests to say a few words and Cr. Carmelo Pesce opened by saying this was his fourth year attending this annual function and he continues to be amazed at the job the men and women of the Club have done in making all the toys. He said attending functions such as this is the most enjoyable part of his job as Mayor.



Following Mark Speakman commented on the great display of toys and the contribution the Club makes to the various organisations present. He was impressed with the quality and the time taken to produce them and quite candidly and with humour referred back to his woodworking efforts in his first year at high school which were a disappointment to his woodwork teacher.

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## Christmas Toy Give Away November 2016 (Continued)

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Lola from Sutherland Shire Family Services said this was the 6<sup>th</sup> or 7<sup>th</sup> year the club had provided toys to her organisation, starting from when we were at Oyster Bay. On behalf of the vulnerable families they support Lola conveyed how very grateful they and the Services were. Lola then presented our Club with their Certificate of Appreciation as seen at right with Ray & Malcolm.



In turn Dianne from John Franklin Christmas Lunch said the Club had also supported their organisation for many years, and last year had 540 people at the lunch. They aim to give everyone a small gift, so our donations are most welcome and said we should see the looks on the children's faces at Christmas. Dianne issued a general invitation to anyone who wishes to attend to come along this year to the lunch on Christmas Day at the Sutherland Entertainment Centre.

Graeme from Kingsway Community Care, a church-based, not for profit organisation that exists to serve the social, emotional, physical and spiritual needs of the community. Graeme said this was their first year to be involved with us and he was "blown away" with our generosity. Kingsway Community Care assists young homeless women and does a lot of work supporting and housing young families. The Kingsway Community Church also runs Jacaranda Cottage and Platform 9 amongst other initiatives for young people. They provide upwards of 150 hampers at Christmas, tailored to the specific needs of the recipients, so our donations will be especially welcome.



Malcolm presented Barbara Taaffe with a card and gift, thanking her for her continuing contribution in knitting a significant number of dolls and animal shapes for the children.

Malcolm then thanked everyone for their attendance and invited all guests to stay and enjoy morning tea with the Club members and their wives.







As in previous years we made a number of deliveries to the Child Life and Music Therapists at the Children's Hospital. Following are some examples of the work that has been done that includes some special requests. Interestingly the number of items delivered was less than last year due to two reasons; one as a direct result of specials requests and the second was the time consumed was much greater due to the more complex items.

It is Important to recap that the bulk of the items made for the Hospital in timber are in what is an unfinished, raw state and as such are purposely left for the children to apply paint in a creative manner. This is part of their therapy to decorate their items and to take them home when they leave the Hospital.



The image at left was from a December 2015 delivery that did make our last review and is worth to be included because of the merriment on this particular occasion.

Ian Rudd and Ray Tregoning were in the process of trying to tune the wooden Xylophones they made and Matt, one of the music therapists was asked to help and he obliged by having an impromptu jam session.

Not everyone is shown here however of the staff there was a year 10 work experience student on a harp, and Kerry the deputy manager on tongue drum with Matt at the rear making music with a walking stick flute. Our Club members were represented by Fred on guitar, Lyn and Ian on their Xylophones and Barry on a metal base.



During the year we received some images from the Hospital to show us how some of the items we provide are decorated by the children. Kerry Crannis advised us the owl boxes were decorated by girls between 8 and 11years. The painted guitar is from a four year old boy whose family lives in Cronulla. The red and green paint was jokingly responded by dad saying next time will do another one and it will be in the Sharks colours.



Following are some samples of the unpainted toys that were delivered to the Hospital.

As usual each visit as seen above is a celebration by the staff. They always show amazement at the quality and variety of toys and is also for the joy they know the toys will give to the children as it is of significant benefit to them.



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At right is an example of one delivery made in July. This one included a number of cot frames (coloured hanging playthings) for the wards to test for strength and effectiveness. The high sided trucks, hope trees, guitars etc. with the vases and owls (images below) give an idea of the efforts of our members.



**A SMALL SAMPLE OF ITEMS MADE FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE CLUB,  
WITH OUR FUND RAISING ACTIVITIES**



Fred Seligmann one of our prolific toy makers with some of his dolls houses





## Diversity of Interests

Considering the number of our images of last year, following is a smaller selection of items of a difference to convey the variety and interesting member output, all of which require time and a great amount of skill.

An Italian tugboat named Anteo and an other by Warwick, this one a winning entry in our Plank Competition



Ray Schofield calls it “an inspiration”; a road side mirror enhanced with pyrography



A competition entry



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At left, a creation called a “Genie Bottle” created by Geoff Tong with timber off cuts



A 1930 “Model A” Roadster



A very detailed box made with one of our scroll saws

A nest of tables with a suspended glass top





## Diversity of Interests (Continued)

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Below is one of two Santa Sleighs made by Ray Tregonning , the second one was donated to the Club as a 1<sup>st</sup> raffle prize. It is seen in the “Our Community & Fund Raising Activities” page 11 following. Some nice detail cannot be seen in the image such as shorts and thongs. So,

*Is it Jingle Bells or do we hop into Aussie, Aussie, Aussie, Ho, Ho, Ho?*



Ian Rudd has come up with an interesting “Truncated Icosahedron” This translates into 32 separated pieces, 20 hexagons and 12 pentagons all joined and held together with 30 elastic bands.



Steven Lansley has been busy again at the scroll saw. He made and on our “Show & Tell” on our October maxiday (like the others above in December and April respectively) discussed this ribbon box and Merry Christmas greeting. The box shown partially open was made of all wood and that very interestingly includes the ribbon.



One of our lady members, Lyn Messenger made the bench seat. Motivated by what she saw in Bunning’s, Lyn with the help of Ian Rudd made the seat from an image of the one for sale and was made from timber off cuts

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## Our Major Equipment Additions

Following are two self funded additions that were a result of member demand in terms of use and demand in quality output.



We took delivery in August of a highly featured new Router Table that has a cast iron table top and is precision made. At left it has a dust collection box and a drawer to store items for the router. It was built by our “Mr Meticulous” Roger Dixon with the help of Ray Tregonning and Ian Rudd.

At right is the commercial image of the Laguna 14”Band Saw we took delivery of in October. Like the new router this a quality made item with safety features like the immediate foot press to stop feature



## Administration & Financial

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We continue with our two monthly meetings namely the Committee and Maxiday General Member Meetings. The Committee meeting precedes the Maxiday and covers operational matters to provide a basis for decision making and future planning. These are then communicated and discussed at the following Saturday Maxiday meeting to the broader membership. Additionally in August we conduct our formal Annual General Meeting.

Our procedural formalities continue to ensure the smooth and efficient operation of our Club. It is not only for compliance purposes as a “not for profit organisation” but to ensure that each meeting is in the best interests of members in a safe and happy environment and also in consideration of community standards.

Looked at from differing viewpoints and outcomes it is not hard to acknowledge the importance of the time and committed team efforts of our Executive and those members who make up our important Sub-Committees. As a combined team we have a good mix of knowledge and skills to additionally make “business like” decisions in an open and friendly manner and ensure operational effectiveness. It has allowed our members to grow and display a wide range of increased skills with our new equipment whilst operating in a safe environment.

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## Safety & Training

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It is pleasing to record there were no major incidents during the year. This is largely due to our continued emphasis on safety, the safety activities are under constant revision and our member awareness of risk. Our regular monthly Maxi-day meetings routinely have time set aside with safe use of a selected item of equipment as seen in the image below.

This year we introduced personalised one-on-one training on the use of all equipment. This is an ongoing job as when you consider the variety of equipment and the number of members to “sign off” on each item of power equipment. We also have commenced a review of the private medical history of members in case of an emergency.



At left is an example of Ian conducting training on a powerful table saw. Interesting that the image shows no one is watching Ian as we conduct training with a movie camera so the steps of use are in “close up” and displayed on our wall mounted TV for all to view.

Peter Mott at right is seen in one of his regular cleaning jobs with the filters of one of ceiling air filters. . We have seen a reduction in air borne dust collected in the filters due to the new dust collection and extraction system it still remains an important regular task to further reduce the air borne dust





## Our Community & Fund Raising Activities.



Our committed Secretary Graham Ethell helped organise and operate the following four activities

### Gymea

We had 14 members give their time at our stall on the Gymea Village Fair on 30<sup>th</sup> October. The wonderful Christmas Santa Sleigh (the second as seen on Page 9) proved to be a great stimulus for people to buy our raffle tickets. Ian Rudd donated a beautiful jewellery box as the second prize



### Bunning's Taren Point

We had a busy and therefore a very successful Club Fund Raising day on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> September at the Bunning's Store in Taren Point. The day gave us the opportunity to cook and sell some 650 sausage sandwiches and drinks together with IMB Bank Cook Community Raffle Tickets to aid our important fund raising.. We extended our gratitude to the Bunning's organisers and also to the friendly staff who made this possible.



### The IMB Bank Cook Community Classic

A pleasant day was experienced at Cronulla Beach where we had our tent on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> December and our Certificate of Attendance.



### Lilli Pilli Workshop Door Sale

At right is one example of an organised day at the front of the Workshop. The image was on the local Council elections in September



## Some Additional Items of Interest

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The two images following show the work undertaken by our members to prepare and then install a Council approved timber storage shed on say the western side of the Workshop. The image at left shows the number of members involved in the formwork and laying of the concrete floor. It has been necessitated to allow us to



continue to receive and store community gifts of timber. Any gifts of timber are greatly appreciated as we will not have additional expense on timber for our donations etc.

The shed at right is 3.7 by 2.26 metres and 2 metres high.



Roger Stephens and his wife Maureen from London have been visiting Australia since 2009 after their daughter married an Australian and came to live in Miranda. Initial visits were for 3 months but now having a daughter, son with 3 grandchildren here they obtained a one year visa. Roger joined us in 2015 and started off making jigsaws and wooden Christmas decorations for the club, following on with two end-grain cutting boards. He has really enjoyed the facilities and the friendship of our members, inspired to arouse some people in the UK as to what can be achieved. A recent email to Fred Seligmann: - "Please pass on my best wishes to all at SWC for Xmas. I appreciate and enjoy still receiving and reading the Sawdust & Shavings, just makes me miss being there working and chatting with you all." We will see him again.

It is well documented in our monthly Sawdust & shavings and our reviews how appreciative we are with the assistance we receive and the genuine friendship we have with the Council with their various employees over the years. On Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> July Warwick Tame and I made a special visit to the Council. I should note prior to the day Warwick graciously donated the truck to the Club and in turn his suggestion for it to be presented to Council was unanimously accepted by the Club. We received a very warm welcome in the office from David Ackroyd (image at left), Carmelo Pesce (centre holding the truck), Councillor Tom Croucher and Carmelo's



office staff. They were all very impressed with Warwick's explanation of the active suspension, wheels, loaders and simulated mechanisms.

The front courtyard image was taken with two Council operators



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## Some Additional Items of Interest (continued)

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### IMB Bank & Wollongong Public Hospital

In the opening page mention was made of the close relationship we have with a number of external organisations. One of those is the IMB Bank whom we have been in regular contact and it all started in discussions to gain their financial assistance with our proposed new dust extraction system. Since we received this assistance and the various meetings we were approached to consider our support similar to what we provide to the Sydney Children's Hospital at Randwick. This was for the Children's Ward at Wollongong Public Hospital and in response we were happy to oblige. In September, our President Ian, VP Malcolm, Secretary Graham and Editor Barry then travelled to Wollongong. On arrival they met with the Children's Ward Unit Manager, the resident School Teacher and three of the nurses. There the children's ward has 28 beds that are mainly for short term patients. With those patients with more acute conditions they are generally transferred to Randwick or Westmead Hospitals so, the needs will be much less than Randwick's. The image shows a sample of the therapy items we make to give them an idea of what we can do.



### Our 2016 Award of Excellence

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We held our annual Excellence Award judging on our December 2016 Maxiday for those items made by members during the year. Entries were placed in one of four categories chosen by those participating. The initial judging was undertaken to select a winner in each Category with the overall winner being chosen from those four winners.



In the Toy Category Glenn Reeve was the winner with his pinball machine and in the Utility Category the Ukulele of David Whitney was the winning item.



Ray Tregoning entered two items, one in the Art Category with a Jewellery Box and the second was in the Furniture Category with an Anorak chair.



Ray was the successful entrant as the overall winner with his high quality chair.

## Our Executive

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There were two changes in our Executive. After seven years as President I decided not to nominate and therefore stepped down. This was done officially at the Club's Annual General Meeting held on the 13<sup>th</sup> August 2016.

It was a very smooth transition with Ian Rudd nominating as President unopposed. Ian's first duty as President was to present to me a turned Silky Oak platter, suitably inscribed that was made by Barry Gardner our Editor. The inscription read in part "in recognition of his contribution to our Club as President from 2009 to 2016". Ray has agreed to be part of the Committee in a new position as "Immediate Past President" for the next twelve months.



We retained an Executive of four members. With Ian our President we have Malcolm Armstrong (at left as a toymaker) who successfully nominated the vacant position as Vice President.

At right there is Treasurer Alan Ritchie and our long serving and hard working Secretary Graham Ethell (Below).



They are all extremely important to the continued smooth running and future planning of our Club.

Additionally, Alan is a Member in our Project & Training Committee (seen conducting training on the router), with being a Safety, First Aid and Equipment Officer.



There were a few changes to our sub-committee memberships and the special welcomes to Mike Green, Neil Matthews, Terry Murphy and Bob Quigley and our appreciation with them accepting a nomination to a committee position. We know they will find the extra involvement with the Club interesting and stimulating.

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Ray De Marco  
Immediate Past President



## In Closing

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This image was on our Christmas celebration day on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> December. It represents an opportunity for me to express gratitude on behalf of all members to all those that made this day very successful. There were our regular Catering Committee members headed by our gourmet chef Richard Cain together with Trevor Lewis, Lynn Messenger and additional volunteers. It was again, a magnificent Christmas celebration feast as the images reveal. Special thanks must go to Faye & Roger Dixon who returned from a caravanning holiday to especially cook the ham for this occasion.



## Our 2016 Year

Our 2016 year has again been quite successful and the achievements of this continued success can be measured in a number of ways: -

- Firstly our teamwork and the happy way that we have worked together has continued.
- Despite a reduction in number of toys donated with our toy making efforts actually increased. This was due to the fact that we responded to specific requests from our Charities with an increasing number of members and not only that the response involved toy making of a far more complex nature than the previous year.
- There was a continued emphasis on safety coupled with a review and an improved workshop layout with an effective dust collection system.
- Lastly, the rewards that come with planning and organisation to enable us to not only meet financial commitments on the day and for the future and to increase our funds.

Importantly, our Year was made possible with the contributions from those listed on the following page namely:

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## In Closing, Our 2016 Year (Continued)

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### **Sutherland Shire Council.**

The continued close and friendly working relationship with Council in particular with the active visits of the Mayor Carmelo Pesce at our Annual Toy Give Away, and the regular ones of David Ackroyd Manager Communities Unit. Also, there is the very appreciative financial support with Council's Community Services & Arts Grant to enable us to build a new kitchen.

### **To Mr Scott Morrison MP our Federal Member for Cook.**

Scott has sincerely thanked us for our; "hard work in helping with the poppies stand upright" when they were positioned in front of the Cronulla Beach Park Cenotaph on Anzac Day. We appreciate his tangible support with the printing of this communication and our monthly newsletters.

### **To Mr Mark Speakman SC MP Member for Cronulla.**

Mark continues to show a genuine interest in our Club and takes an opportunity to visit us and join in friendly discussions as evidenced at our Xmas Toy Give Away with our local Charities

**To Kerry Duroux, Manager of the IMB Bank, Cronulla.** Kerry also visited when we held our Xmas Toy Give Away

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## Our 2017 Year

This year will start with the task of installing a complete new kitchen that will improve the layout and will allow the club to have a very modern and presentable area for catering. A team has been formed to carry out this work and hopefully this will be completed by early March 2017. Our thanks to the Sutherland Shire Council for providing the funds to allow this project to proceed.

The last Thursday every month being devoted for toy making is helping the club produce high quality toys in large numbers. We will meet our normal distribution calendar of toys to the Children's Hospital and our Community "Toy Give Away". It will also provide time to allow the club to produce other charitable items that are often requested.

The committee will continue to review our two competitions namely, the Plank Competition and the SWC Excellence Award. Our aim is to have many more members participate in these competitions. We will review their structure such as categories, rules and judging to maintain and increase the interest of members. Training and safety will again be the major focus for our club in 2017. We introduced Machine Induction Procedures in the latter part of 2016 whereby every member has to go through the process of training for each machine. This discipline is not yet completed for every member however good progress has been made. We will continue to show safety videos and demonstrations on maxi days to drive home the safety message.

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Ian Rudd, President

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December 2016