

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

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

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Neil Mathews has restored the Beam Auger

Neil Mathews has worked wonders on the decrepit Beam Auger shown in last month's newsletter. He has a fascinating story about the restoration.

The photo opposite shows the restored auger. Neil, what a wonderful contrast!

Apart from a labour-of-love restoration, Neil has just one problem. Read the story to find out the details of the problem.

Did you know that the auger operator sat on the seat which was placed on the thick beam to be drilled?

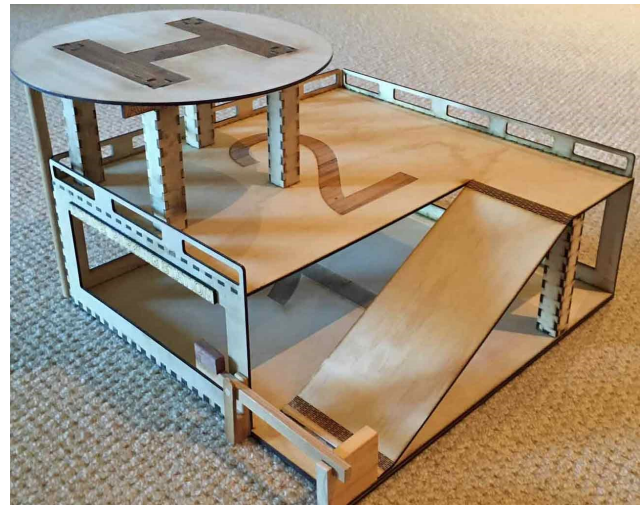
Think large mortise and tenons on really thick beams used in constructing barns in America. This is in the era before electrically powered tools.

Neil's story is on page 4.



Adam's Carparking Station

All the keen readers of this newsletter will remember last month when the Randwick Children's Hospital asked for a special order for a patient by name of Adam. He wanted a car parking station, well our Toy Makers have delivered big time, as shown below.



Along with some extra items that the Toy Makers were needed to make the station complete by adding some helicopters.

Maybe Adam is an aspiring entrepreneur and will be running a helicopter shuttle service as well as a car parking station empire.

See the story on page 6.

Pot plant holder by Maurice Smith

What started out as meeting a simple request for a pot plant stand turned into the world's tallest pot plant stand complete with a several pot plant holders.

Read Maurice's story on page 7.



Major items in this edition

- ◇ Fund Raising opportunities news
- ◇ President's report
- ◇ Librarian's report
- ◇ Virtual Show & Tell
- Tensegrity—what is it?
- Restoration of the Boring Machine
- Tim Dodds' Clocks
- Zdena's Kitchen Shelf Unit
- Adam's Parking Station
- Repairing a Valet
- World's Tallest Pot Plant stand
- ◇ Notice Board

CLUB COMMITTEE:

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

SUB-COMMITTEES & Auxiliary Positions

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

Editor's Musings—

Even though the restrictions of Covid-19 are in place, including very recently the need to wear a mask, club members are still able to come together in the workshop to undertake their personal projects or to engage in toy making.

Members attending the Workshop are quite hygiene conscious and we will maintain that attitude to ensure that the workshop is able to remain open for the benefit of our members.

On an unrelated note, we have had numerous membership enquiries recently; some of those enquiries have resulted in membership applications.

Even though our fund raising opportunities in the next few months will be severely restricted we are fortunate in that we are in a healthy financial state. However, we need to make sure that every opportunity is taken to maintain that state.

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

Have you paid your 2020 membership subscription?

If not, why not?

For only \$30 a year you have membership of a wonderful club with great equipment and like-minded members,

News about our Fund Raising opportunities for the rest of 2020

Regrettably, there is only a little bit of good news. First the **bad** news:

- ◇ Bunnings BBQ's: Closed at this stage, previous advice was that they were re-opening soon; but more recent advice it is that it is not happening in NSW
- ◇ Gymea Village Fair: Cancelled for 2020. This venue was our biggest source of income in 2019.
- ◇ 2020 Cook Community Classic Carnival: No decision yet, but considered doubtful.

The only **GOOD** news, is:

- ◇ 2020 Cook Community Classic Raffle: Tickets available soon. All of the proceeds from tickets sold by members is retained by the club. We will be asking members to make a special effort to sell raffle tickets.

President's report



With the reopening of the Shire Woodworking Club we have followed our COVID19 action plan and this has allowed members to resume their woodworking. Maurice Smith has done an excellent job of maintaining the daily roster system and our attendance book shows that we have had a wide range of members participating at the club.

Please do not come to the club if you are not well or have any influenza-like symptoms. Make sure your temperature is checked before you enter and please use the hand sanitizer that is available at various locations. Social distancing is required and please ensure that any visitors are recorded in the attendance book with their name clearly printed along with their contact details.

A reminder to all members that the first Saturday in every month is a dedicated day for our Woodcarver friends and please avoid attending the club on these days.

In July we made the last Thursday our Toymaking Day and it was well attended allowing many toys to be progressed. Due to the current health crisis our stocks of toys for The Children's Hospital Randwick is quite depleted so extra effort is required to meet the requests of the therapists.

Plank competition work can also be done on the Toymaking day as well as other toys for the club. My thanks to all the members who were able to attend.

Finally, a reminder on SAFETY. Please remember that workshop safety begins with you. If you see something happening that is not correct please speak up. If you are not sure of a particular operation, please ask.

Ian Rudd
 President

Librarian's report

We have received the August 2020 (# 283) Issue of the Fine Woodworking magazine. Lots of good reading including workshop tips, tools and materials.

This issue has a great article on how to cut accurate tenons on the tablesaw. There is a very detailed article on how to add a gallery to a desk. Take a look at the article on jigs for routing perfect curves. For the box makers there's an article on veneered boxes. If you want to update your workshop you will find useful an article on how to improve your existing workshop bench.

Each issue I will provide a few links to YouTube woodworking projects and techniques. See the table below.

Happy woodworking. See you soon at the club.

Roger Walsh— Club Librarian



Mitre splice & dovetail key Jig	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FRemSi82cWs&t=1103s
The perfect hobby machine	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s3ML9IHcKnA
Small crosscut sled.	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=McXJxYlXq-E
10 Awesome DIY wood projects for absolute beginners	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lyWIBRIHill
How To make the basic box	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8vFGrNjT4P4

VIRTUAL SHOW & TELL

Tensegrity—what is it?

Wikipedia describes it as:

Tensegrity, tensional integrity or floating compression is a structural principle based on a system of isolated components under compression inside a network of continuous tension, and arranged in such a way that the compressed members (usually bars or struts) do not touch each other while the prestressed tensioned members (usually cables or tendons) delineate the system spatially.

The term was coined by Buckminster Fuller in the 1960s as a portmanteau of "tensional integrity".

What can you do with it?

The photo opposite shows a small prototype of a tensegrity structure. There are lots of YouTube videos and so on showing the use of tensegrity principles in making furniture for example able to hold significant weight.



VIRTUAL SHOW & TELL

Neil Mathews' Restoration of the Beam Boring Machine

Neill has provided a comprehensive history of the machine, its operation and restoration. I have condensed several pages into the following.

Operation

The principal use for the machine was drilling for Mortises on large wooden beams.

Using the beam auger was pretty straightforward. Once the position for a mortise was marked on the beam, the tool was placed on the beam with the auger bit at one end of the marked out mortise. The timber-framer sat on a leather seat of the beam auger and turned the handles. The twisted auger bit automatically dug into the beam – advancing deeper and deeper until it reached a pre-set depth at which time, without changing the direction the handles were being turned, the auger bit automatically reversed rotation and withdrew from the beam, returning to its original position. The operator then slid the machine to position the auger bit at the other end of the marked-out mortise and bored another hole. The auger was then positioned several more times to remove as much of wood between the first two holes as possible. With some cleaning up with a chisel the mortise was ready for its tenon. Search YouTube for *Beam Auger* to see how they work.

History of hand powered boring machines

Before boring machines were invented, carpenters used hand-powered augers to bore holes. Most common were T-handled augers. The shape of the drill bits changed over time, with the spoon bit and shell bit being common before the invention of the spiral or twist bit in 1771 which removes the cuttings as it turns.

The exact origin of this Boring Machine invention is not known but was patented in 1872. The earliest patent is in the United States in 1830 by J. Beckwith and was as tall as a man and operated by a large wheel from the side.

Boring machines use twist auger bits usually ranging in size from $\frac{7}{8}$ inch to 2 inches. The machines hold the bit perpendicular (square) to the face of the timber and are operated with both hands while the operator sits on the base to keep the machine from moving. This machine can be set at an angle.

How we come to possess this machine

In July 2020 Errol Sullivan and his brother Dennis donated this Antique Drilling Machine to the Club. In looking for some history of the machine's previous life, I found that it had been discovered 25 years ago on a pile of rubbish in a dump bin by Errol's wife and collected by Errol. It was never used and just became an ornament.

Restoration

The first task was to strip the machine totally. I soaked the parts in white vinegar that softens surface rust, but nothing else. The next step was a wire brush in

an electric drill to remove the "crud" that I found was up to one millimetre thick in places and under this crud I found a patent date of 1872 which makes the "crud" nearly 150 years old. I also found a number of repairs, indicating the machine had a recent working life. Two studs had been electric-welded in place, the release catch had been broken &

braised, and there is evidence that the handles had been re-pinned to the shaft.

After cleaning, the upright timber parts were stripped back to bare timber and painted satin clear. To strip these parts it became impossible with sandpaper, so I used the angle grinder and a Flap Disc to remove the accumulated 150 year-old paint, oil, and crud. We had an attempt to restore the wooden base of the machine at the club, but this proved not possible due to wood rot. Ian donated some red gum timber that we cut and shaped to suit. The base needed two new through bolts. These were done with 10mm threaded rod and I re-tapping the square nuts from $\frac{3}{8}$ UNC to M10. The base was finished with several coats of Anchor satin clear.

I painted the cast iron external parts gloss black but left the working parts unpainted.

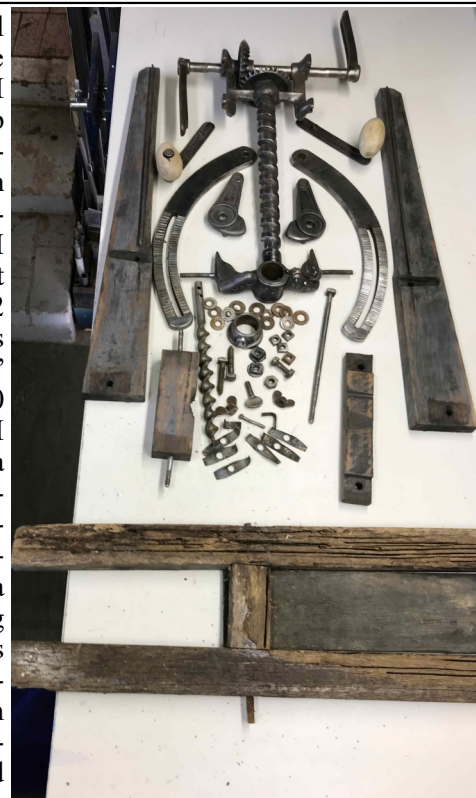
The machine can be adjusted from 90° down to 45° drilling angle. The drilling arm lengths can be adjusted to suit the operator

Neil's Problem

I can't get it to work, which is a disappointment to me!

But by simulating what I speculate, I have actually drilled a hole.

I was trying to find out how the machine should work and figured if I could find the original patent I might be in business. Based on the only marks on the machine PAT JAN 1872 I searched Google with these words. I first found a number of EBAY entries com-



(Continued on page 5)

VIRTUAL SHOW & TELL

plete with photos. One of these EBAY entries called it a Phillips Beam Boring Machine. I then started searching US patents and was rewarded by finding Patent 122,402 awarded to Jacariah C Phillips in January 2 1872 Allegheny City PA USA for Improvements in Boring Machines.

Previous boring machines used a manually engaged rack and pinion to raise the auger by reversing the rotation of the auger, thus raising it from the timber. These can be seen on YouTube. There were drawings with the patent form, but no descriptions as to how the machine functioned. However the drawings showed what I was looking for, the way the release mechanism is latched and reset by the depth stop. I looked further and found the patent has now been cancelled. The release mechanism on our machine is different from the patent drawings and I still cannot see how it is latched.

Editor here: Is this the end of the story? Will there be a happy ending? Read next month's newsletter for the next exciting episode in Neil's saga. Thank you Neil for a fascinating look at Beam Boring machines.

Not Show & Tell—but some good news about the purchase of a new Router

The Federal Government Volunteer Grant has been received.

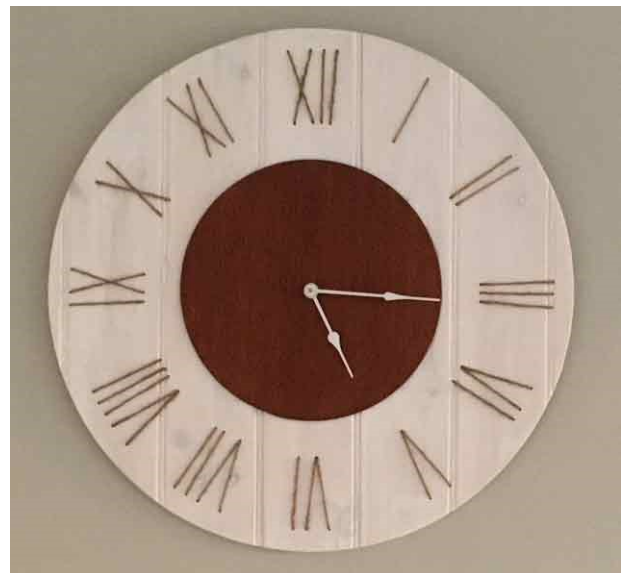
Ian Rudd advised the Sherwood cast iron router table complete with CNC water cooled spindle and inverter kit has been ordered from Timbecon. It should arrive in September 2020. We have also ordered large glue bottles, spare nozzles, large magnetic feather board/s and hold down clamp/s from Timbecon .



Tim Dodds has made 2 clocks

Member, Tim Dodds has been busy, making two clocks. Nicely done Tim.

"I have made a few clocks since joining the club. This time I have made two. The first (pictured below) is with shiplap backing and twine roman numerals. A very similar version to the photo version was selling at Freedom Furniture for over \$300. These were quite simple to make and yet look really effective. The biggest challenge initially was finding a source for clock mechanisms and clock hands. I found "Lets Make Time" [www.letsmaketime.com.au]" to be a good source of information as well as having all you want - in Australia. Janine Pye (owner) is really helpful and the clock mechanism keeps really good time and has a long battery life.



The second clock (pictured opposite) was a greater challenge, but being see through, it allows your internal home decor to form part of the finished piece.

The challenge was that the clock outer circle (500mm diameter) is held in place by the 4 primary clock numbers - i.e. it needed to be cut/carved from 1 or just a couple of large pieces of timber. I was lucky to find part of a table (apparently from a synagogue) that has been in the wood store for many years. I simply sandwiched 2 x 250mm lengths and then cut the numbers and shapes out. After a lot of sanding the result is really effective.

I stained the timber to match a dark dining table adjacent to the clock, with a white face, which hides the simple clock mechanism.

VIRTUAL SHOW & TELL

Zdena's Kitchen Shelving Unit

My small kitchen wasn't designed for a keen cook such as me. This shelf unit will help me to be better organised and in control.

The beauty of this project is in the use of recycled material from some big doors dismantled during a reconstruction or demolition of somebody's house and stored at the Club. Originally, I wanted to paint the shelves to match the colour of my kitchen. After stripping off the original white paint I discarded this idea as a sin and decided to retain the original timber hues instead.

I then finished them with 2 coats of Interior Varnish Stain.

Many thanks to Richard and Ian (and others) for their "unconditional" help. As always! Zdena



Adam's Parking Station

Barry Gardner has shared with me an email sent to Randwick Children's Hospital, as follows:

Hi Janet,

Attached are a few photos of the car parking station made for Adam as per your previous emails. It is ready to be delivered. However due to the Covid-19 problems not certain what protocols are needed to deliver it and a few other items we have for your department. I am only too happy to deliver it to the hospital sometime.

Hope the station is to Adam's liking. It has a boom gate and some pipework with a heliport.

Barry

Subsequent to that email several toy makers put their heads together and decided that the heli-pad needed some helicopters. The photo below shows the results of their efforts. It was quite funny watching three or four toy makers sitting at the table clustered around the larger helicopter trying to decide how to assemble the machine. They prevailed!



Ray Tregoning has repaired a Valet (furniture piece not a person)



This was just a simple repair needed, but was important to my wife Gayle's mother Joan, as the valet stand had been made by her husband, Ralph.

The rail that you hang your trousers on was broken as a result of being knocked over in a fall. It was simple to replace with a piece of pine, all glued back together in the coat hanger top.

I had no stain hence the difference in colour, so a coat of clear was used to make good. (see detail photo opposite)



One of the Club's Bosch Angle grinders is missing

Did you borrow one of the Club's Bosch angle grinders and forget to write your name in the equipment borrower's book? Please let us know so that we can account for this equipment item.

VIRTUAL SHOW & TELL

The world's tallest pot plant stand (*) by Maurice Smith

My daughter sent me a link to a photo on a popular website and she asked me "Dad, can you make me something like that?"

As one does when asked by a loved family member, I immediately answered "Of course I can".

After sorting out the minor details of how much floor space was available I decided that as I had a lot of spare recycled timber laying around maybe I could use some of it on this project.

Here's the finished item ready to be delivered.



The vertical parts are all pine. All the horizontal parts are various types of hardwood, most of which I had at home, some found at the workshop. The only new items were the screws holding it together. Did I mention screws? Lots of screws.

The finished product was coated with two coats of clear varnish which brought out the timber colours in a pleasant manner,

It turned out to be quite heavy, I could barely lift it, that meant delivering to my daughter was a real challenge. I had to lift it to the top of my wife's car (it's equipped with roof racks, whereas my car isn't). With a lot of grunting and assistance from my wife we managed to lift it up and tie it down.

* claim not verified by Guinness Book of Records

The photo below shows the stand after delivery and being populated with some of her pot plants. The stand is 1.6 meters tall and has 5 tiers.



It was an enjoyable project, but towards the end of construction it proved to be a considerable challenge due to the amount of floor space it required in the garage.

Pot Plant Holder by Maurice Smith

While working on the pot plant stand as reported above I was reading the current edition of The Australian Woodsmith magazine which had the plans for these simple pot plant holders.

For once the word "simple" turned out to be true. So I took the design principles and made three plant holders, one of which was given to my daughter with the pot plant stand (it's actually on the stand obscured by the Madonna Lily) and the other two are presently on my desk, one with a cactus and one without.

I think the timber is maple, it was finished with wipe-on poly and then clear varnish. I think the design is lovely and can be adapted to many shapes and sizes.



Coming Up!

Club Calendar

August 2020							8
S	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa	
						1	
2	BH	4	5	6	7	8	
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	
30	31						

September 2020							9
S	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa	
		1	2	3	4	5	
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	
27	28	29	30				

Legend

- Committee Meeting 12:30pm -
- Club Days—members own projects
- Toy Making—No own projects

First Saturday is Woodcarvers use of the Workshop

MaxiDays

Alas, no MaxiDays for the foreseeable future.

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.

First Saturday each Month—Woodcarvers EXCLUSIVE Use of the Workshop

Members are reminded that the Woodcarvers have exclusive use of the Workshop on the first Saturday of each month, and as they are paying rent they are entitled to "quiet enjoyment" of the premises.

This means you should **NOT** turn up at the Workshop for any reason, which includes "just popping in to pick up something".

Members to wear masks in the workshop

In view of the Covid-19 situation in NSW and the health recommendations re wearing of masks, please note the Committee decided that from 5 August 2020 it is compulsory for members to wear a mask whilst in the Workshop (with the exception of morning tea and lunch times while you are eating)

Please come prepared to comply with this requirement, which has been introduced in the interests of the health of all members.

Plank Competition

Have you entered this year's competition? Do you have your plank? Do you need to collect one from the workshop? Have you started work on your entry? If not, why not?

Fire safety planning

The fire safety plan work on which commenced before the Covid-19 lockdown is to be reactivated so that members know what to do in the event of a fire. Watch this space for more details next month.

Workshop clean-up Wednesday 12 August morning

The morning of Wednesday 12 August will be devoted to cleaning up the timber accumulation in multiple locations around the workshop, notably:

- ⇒ Storeroom
- ⇒ Workshop shelves
- ⇒ Timber Shed
- ⇒ Adjacent to the dust extractor bin

The amount of timber that has accumulated is considerable. Some of it is not worth holding, the rest needs to be sorted, tidied and properly stored.

Members with Birthdays in August

Day	Member
2	Mark Paterson
9	John Lischeld
10	Alan Ritchie
12	Stephen Lansley
13	Arthur Tilley
14	Terry Murphy
15	Brian Martin
18	Regina McGrillen
18	Jason Brownson
21	Trevor Lewis
22	Brian McMahan
24	Robert Winwood

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



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 PRIME MINISTER OF AUSTRALIA | FEDERAL MEMBER FOR COOK
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