

The Official Newsletter of the SHIRE WOODWORKING CLUB Inc. Reg. No. Y2889524  
"The WORKSHOP", 2B Turriell Bay Road, Lilli Pilli. NSW. 2229  
Workshop Phone 0490 861 606 Membership Enquiries: (02) 9522 7674 Newsletter Editor: Phone 0414 538 475

# 25th Anniversary Celebrations

Attending our 25th anniversary celebrations on 19 April 2023 were numerous special guests, pictured below.



Mayor of Sutherland Council,  
Carmelo Pesce, our landlord



Mark Speakman, State member for  
the Cook electorate, and now NSW  
Opposition leader



Carol Provan, Deputy Mayor,  
Councillor for Ward A, in  
which the club is located



Councillor Leanne Farmer, Ward A



Federal Member for Cook, Scott Morri-  
son.



Sydney Children's Hospital representa-  
tives, Neisha and Matt. The Club treas-  
ures our long relationship with the Music  
and Play Therapy unit at Sydney Chil-  
dren's Hospital

Additional photos and a re-  
port on the event are to be  
found on page 3.

**CLUB COMMITTEE:**

President: Ian Rudd  
Vice President: Malcolm Armstrong  
Secretary: Graham Ethell  
 Telephone 9522 7674  
Treasurer: Alan Ritchie  
Committee Members: Roger Dixon, David Edwards  
 Maurice Smith

**SUB-COMMITTEES & Auxiliary Positions**

Assistant Secretary: Roger Dixon  
Assistant Treasurer: Roger Walsh  
Project Sub-Committee: Gary Healey, Roger Walsh & Ray Tregoning.  
Librarian: Roger Walsh  
Safety Officers: David Edwards, Gary Healey, Axel Tennie & Bob Quigley,  
Welfare Officer: Malcolm Armstrong, & Kevin Gowen  
First Aid Officers: Graham Ethell, Alan Ritchie & Gary Healey  
Newsletter Editor: Maurice Smith  
Catering Officers: Richard Cain, Steve Lansley, Trevor Lewis, Neil Mathews, Lynn Messenger, Ray Tregoning, Axel Tennie & Roger Walsh  
Equipment & Training : Roger Dixon, David Edwards, Neil Mathews, Kevin Gowen, Gary Healey, Maurice Smith, Ray Tregoning & James Windschuttle  
Raffles: Gary Mitchell  
Exhibitions Sub-Committee: Graham Ethell & Steve Lansley  
Property Sub-Committee: Graham Ethell & Alan Ritchie  
Toymaking: Malcolm Armstrong, Barry Gardner, Steve Lansley, Neil Matthews, Glen Reeve, Reno Scriberras & Maurice Smith.,  
Facebook: Alan Ritchie  
WebMaster: Maurice Smith  
Woodcarvers' Liaison:

**A useful website**

Recently your editor had the need to make some simple gears for a toy (currently work in progress). Not being an engineer I asked an engineer for advice. That advice pointed me to the website:

**<https://evolventdesign.com/pages/spur-gear-generator>**

This site allows you to specify the details of the gears wanted, more importantly, it allows you to download a drawing file that our laser cutter understands (SVG format). So I was able to test the design in plywood before finally cutting them in acrylic.

Highly recommended.

If you would like to receive this Newsletter please email the editor at

**[theshirewoodworkingclub@gmail.com](mailto: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.

**MAXIDAY:  
 SATURDAY 13 MAY 2023  
 AGENDA**

8:45am	Open Lilli Pilli Workshop
9:00am	Monthly Meeting
9:30am	Video — Ian’s selection
9:50am	Malcolm Armstrong—Toy Making discussion
10:00am	Morning Tea
10:30am	Show & Tell
11:00am	Stan Kirkman—Wood – types, uses, applications
12:00noon	Lunch – Richard Cain and his team have a gourmet delight planned
1:30pm	Raffle Draw
1:45pm	Members projects
3.00pm	Workshop Close

**President’s Report**

I express my thanks to all the members who were able to attend our 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and celebrate the occasion with our numerous invited guests. This was a very special Morning Tea and a milestone for our club

To have the Sutherland Mayor and fellow Councillors attend, along with our State and Federal Members of Parliament was a significant achievement and the genuine interest that was shown by our guests was inspiring. I would also like to give special thanks to Matt Ralph and Neesha from the Children’s Hospital for explaining to everyone how the donations the Shire Woodworking Club make are used by the Hospital to improve the wellbeing of their patients and parents of the children.

Another reminder to all members that Safety is your responsibility. It is also your responsibility to ensure you close dust gates on every occasion when you have finished using a machine. Closing dust gates is important as the dust collection system is not designed to have all gates open at the same time. Finally, pick up a dust pan and brush and clean down the machine and sweep the area clean.

Planks are now available for members who wish to enter the plank competition. This is an occasion where you can contribute and give back to the club some of you time and creativity. Every year this competition allows the Club to gain wonderful toys that we can supply to various charities or sell to raise funds.

Happy Woodworking, Ian Rudd President

# 25th Anniversary Celebrations

Additional photos from our 25th anniversary celebrations held on 19th April 2023



All of our special guests, plus El Presidente Ian Rudd



Cutting the celebratory cake, President Ian Rudd, assisted by our special guests from the Sydney Children's Hospital Neisha and Matt.



Some of the food being set out before we indulged. The left overs were also excellent.

Shire Woodworking Club celebrated its 25th anniversary on 19 April and all club members, plus special guests, were invited to attend the special morning tea.

The Gallery hall was crowded and lots of talking was the order of the day. Our guests spent quite a bit of time chatting with Club members, talking about what we do, with a great deal of time spent talking about how we assist the patients and staff at Sydney Children's Hospital. And local charities.

Our guests admired the completed items on display in the Gallery,

A great many Club members were involved in many different aspects of organising the celebrations, we say thank you to those members, your efforts were really appreciated.

# Safety Update

Last MaxiDay, Gary Healy provided a presentation on the safety aspects of using table saws, and for those of you that were there, the presentation was your table saw induction refresher. Continuing with the tablesaw theme, we have quite a few accessories that, if used, make your job easier, and more importantly makes you a safer woodworker. In this article, we examine a couple of these accessories.

## Thin Strip Ripping Jig

The Thin Strip Ripping Jig is a shop-made jig, very simple and practical, and is extremely useful for cutting multiple thin strips to the same dimension.

Basically, it's a piece of plywood 100mm wide with a handle and an adjustable sacrificial heel. It has instructions lasered on to its top, and to use it, just follow these instructions.



- ◇ Set fence to 100mm plus required width of cut.
- ◇ Place stock against jig heel.
- ◇ Ensure stock and jig are firmly against the fence and cut stock. *(Do a dry run first and using a feather board against the stock is recommended).*

- ◇ Repeat strips can be cut without moving fence.

The photo to the left shows the Thin Strip Ripping Guide.

There are a couple of limitations.

- ◇ Your stock cannot be too long as you need the jig to have maximum contact with the fence along its length.

- ◇ Your stock needs to be a reasonable width so that the off-cut side is wide enough so that your fingers don't get too close to the saw blade.

If you haven't used this jig, try it out, and you might be surprised at how easy it is to use, and how much safer table saw woodworking will be.

## Jessem Stock Guides

The Jessem Stock Guide doesn't get much use at our club, which is unfortunate because it is very useful accessory. It is designed to minimise the dangers of kickback – an ever-present danger when using a table saw, and it also assists in improving the accuracy and quality of rip cuts.



So how does it do this? It is mounted to the top of the saw rip fence via magnetic switches. It has two adjustable arms which have neoprene wheels attached, and these wheels are canted towards the fence and can only rotate in one direction. The canted wheels draw your stock tight against the fence, and the one-way rotation mitigates any chance of kickback. Like everything, there are limitations and for this jig, your stock can't be too narrow or too thick.

There is a process for setting it up, and this is best demonstrated in the club. So next time you're there, familiarise yourself with the stock guide, get some instruction on how to correctly set it up, and make your table saw woodworking a lot safer.

The photo above shows the Jessem Stock Guide in use.

***Be safe today, as tomorrow may be too late!***

David Edwards, Safety Committee

## SO YOU WANT TO MAKE A PEN?

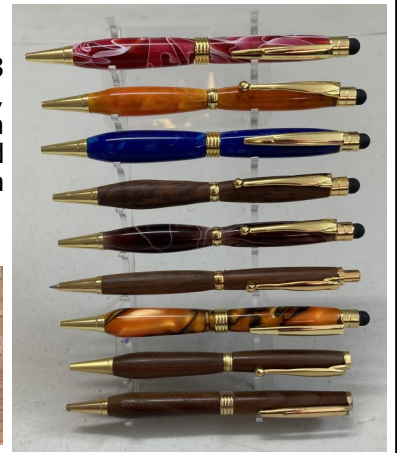
The following is a truncated version of the talk I gave at our April 2023 MaxiDay. We talked of the origins of writing instruments from sticks, quills, metal nibs, fountain pens to biro and bic ball point pens. Also a writing instrument is useless unless one has something to write on and some form of ink. Maybe now the mobile phone could be claimed as a writing instrument?

However lets list the steps of making a pen on a woodturning lathe.

1. What to make? A fountain pen, a roller ball pen, a ballpoint pen or a clutch pencil. Cap, twist, click, bolt or clutch.
2. What to make it from? Wood, acrylic or speciality type.
3. What type of kit to buy? There are possibly in excess of a 100 on the market to choose from. If looking at making a twist ball point pen then the "Slimline" or "Sierra" seem to be most popular. See photos of what is included in a kit. Also select finish ie. Gold, chrome etc.
4. Do have the correct bushings needed for the pen type selected?
5. Rough up the brass tube
6. Cut blank to length(s) slightly larger than brass tube length.
7. Mark centre of cut blank(s)
8. Insert blank into jaws of lathe chuck
9. Drill hole through centre of blank(s) with drill bit sized to brass tube.
10. Plug ends of brass tube to stop possible glue entering inside of tube.
11. Glue up brass tube(s) into blanks and leave to cure. One can use Brass tube insert tool.
12. Using barrel trimmer on lathe to correctly size blank lengths.
13. Select correct bushings needed to complete your pen kit selection.
14. Select positioning of your pen blanks. Ie which end of the blank is the pen tip etc.
15. Inset bushings and blank(s) in pen mandrel and insert in lathe bringing up the live centre on the reverse end of mandrel. (see photo at right)
16. Turn the blank to your preferred shape
17. Sanding (if it is wood) then sand through grits from 120 to at least 400 grit. If one has sufficient wood shaving then use the shavings to burnish the blank ready for finishing.
18. Sanding (if it is acrylic) then sand from 120 to 400 grit following on with wet and dry grits in each gradient to 12,000 grit
19. If it is wood then you can determine what finish you wish. My preference is a simple coating of EEE Shellawax and nothing else. The idea being that within a short period of time the wax will have worn off and one has the feel of wood in ones hand each time the pen is used. Alternately one can finish with a poly or CA glue finish and turn the wood into a "plastic" pen.  
If it is acrylic then one does not need to do anything
20. Insert the Pen press in the lathe
21. Press pen tip into the brass tube
22. Press pen twist mechanism into brass tube measuring regularly to ensure pen refill is correctly positioned when ready to write.
23. If using a stylus tip then unscrew tip holder from its base and remove rubber stylus. Insert the base into the brass tube. Then replace rubber stylus and re-screw the tip holder. Otherwise insert cap end with pocket clip and press into the brass tube
24. Hopefully now you have a fully functioning pen you can call your own. However your family and friends will be asking you to make a pen for them in varying colours and shapes. Pen making is a rewarding pastime.

If you are interested in having a go at making a pen please let me know I should be only too pleased to introduce and help you.

*Barry Gardner*



# Sydney Children's Hospital News

## A RED ROSE DAY REQUEST.



Janet, the joint manager of Child Life and Music Therapy at the Sydney Children's Hospital, Randwick, emailed us in mid April as follows. "I was hoping to ask a favour - no problem at all if you don't have capacity. I am doing a placement for some university study at Red Nose - who support families who lose pregnancies, babies and young children.

We're having a Remembrance Ceremony in the first week of May and I am coordinating the children's activity. I was hoping you might be able to provide some wooden hearts - perhaps even with a forget me not flower engraved on them as the theme is **Precious Hearts Remembered.**

I was thinking about 15cm wide so little ones can draw a picture and bigger kids can write something about their brother or sister who died.

Sorry to make a cheeky additional ask J".



How could we say no to such a request? President Ian put his design hat on and produced 60 such hearts in 3 designs on the Laser Cutter/Engraver seen in the photos opposite. All have been delivered to Janet.

There were two subsequent emails from Janet that we share with our members. The first one, dated 4 May, reads:

*I also had a lot of fun with a patient last Friday afternoon in clinic - Billy didn't want to come to the hospital but had remembered meeting me on his last visit - I took Billy one of your beautiful boxes - he spent the entire 2 hours of clinic and coloured in every inch inside and outside - and then suggested his brother would be very jealous when he got home and so I gave him a box for his brother - I didn't get a photo - because I was caught up with another patient but I might email mum and see if she'd mind sending one*  
*What you guys do for us makes a difference every day and we're so appreciative ...*

The second email, dated 6 May, reads:

*Just wanted to add that we had the Remembrance Service yesterday and the children loved the hearts - and I had enough remaining to allow parents to take one home - everyone was very grateful and overwhelmed by your kindness - they will be using these to remember their babies and children ... it was a very emotional but also very beautiful night ... and your contribution made a big difference.*

## Happy 102nd birthday to Doug Wickens, our oldest member

Here's happy birthday to Doug, alas he's no longer able to attend the workshop. But he's still going strong.



Here he is, with his birthday cake celebrating. Keep on going Doug, we want to keep on celebrating.

## Alan Ritchie and Laser Cut Pencil cases

Alan Ritchie advises: During our morning tea celebrating the club's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary, Matt Ralph from the Sydney Children's Hospital advised the Hospital would be happy to accept any number of the pencil case boxes that the club could make. At the April toymaking day, I had a small number of boxes ready to assemble.



However, members Ray Bywater and Alan Hendry needed something to do and offered to help. While they assembled the current boxes, I was able to cut a whole lot more on the laser. We ended up with a very efficient assembly line and completed 27 boxes which will be delivered to Randwick soon. Thanks Ray and Alan!

## ARE THESE YOUR RINGS?

From Barry Gardner:



These rings were found gathering dust in the workshop kitchen.

If they are yours please see me as I have rescued them and are currently in a plastic bag in my

work apron pocket.

*Barry Gardner*

## What are other woodworking clubs around Australia doing (apart from making sawdust and shavings)?

Members, did you know that our Club is a member of the *Council of Woodwork Clubs Inc*? This group is an umbrella organisation linking woodworking clubs around Australia. Their website is:

<https://www.councilwoodworkclubs.org/>

If you want to read the newsletters of other clubs you will find them at:

<https://www.councilwoodworkclubs.org/club-newsletters>

It's interesting to note that our Club is one of the few clubs that have regularly published newsletters.

Let me know what you find that's interesting in one or more of those other newsletters.

# SHOW & TELL

## Neil Matthews has made several cats happy with a cat tree

Why a Cat Tree? I have five adult grand children and possibly no hope of ever getting little kids to make things for. My youngest daughter is gay and has been married for 25 years, (no kids) so when she and her partner purchased two expensive British Shorthair fur babies, and with their excitement I saw the opportunity to make a toy for them.

I looked at cat trees on the internet but didn't find anything I liked, so this unit is totally my own design. The only common thing is the scratch pole, but this is not the round shape every one else uses, instead it is made from three pieces of packing case 4x2 pine. The "lookout" supports are made from the 50mm round recently donated to the club. I had planned to use 6mm sisal rope as recommended and calculated the length required at about 70 metres. I could only get a 50m coil, but I could get 8mm in a 100m coil. Now you don't need as much 8mm rope as you would for 6mm rope, so if anyone has the use for about 45m of 8mm sisal rope, call me. The 8mm rope was a bummer to wind as it has to be wound tight and glued with a glue gun at regular intervals.



I decided to build a two-story cat play house with cut outs so the cats can chase each other. The cut outs could have been smaller but this was the diameter of the paint tin. The "lookouts" I had seen on the internet used wicker baskets. I went to Vinnies & bought two but found when I got them home they were too big, so I donated them back to Vinnies.

I cut two 350mm plywood circles on the bandsaw. I then needed to cut a 20mm ring

## Maurice Smith and his Japanese lamps

One of the pictured lamps was made about 2 years ago and was in the Gallery for sale. During the sales event on NSW Election Day a customer was extremely interested in buying the lamp but wanted two such lamps. Maurice set out to make a second lamp.

Although he had the original plans the made piece was not exactly to the plans. Thus, the original lamp was extensively scrutinised to ensure the second lamp was as close as possible in fact to the original. This was achieved and in due course several days after MaxiDay a delighted customer took delivery of the two lamps.



from these circles. Figure this one out! It took me several hours, but I finished up drilling and tapping two holes in the base of my jigsaw, and attaching a piece of 5mm ply to act as a circle cutter. I drilled a series of 3mm holes for the jigsaw blade and screwed the circle cutter into the hole in the centre of the plywood circles. I found that I have now a jig saw circle cutter that is as good and is much easier to use than the band saw. Before I cut the circles, I marked out for 8 holes as top and bottom holes must align. The two circles were then drilled 10.5mm at an angle for the 9.5mm dowels to separate them.

I got Alan Ritchie to engrave a laser sign "Helgi & Toti's Cat Tree 2023".

I also found two handles in the clubs store to make it easier to move. This is a large unit, so I have made it so that the heavy parts can be easily removed for transport.

I hope my daughter's fur babies get a lot of fun from their cat tree.



# SHOW & TELL

## Neil Matthews made a 3D Cutting Board

Neil reports: This is the simplest 3D cutting board you will find. It requires 3 different colours of wood, 3 cuts, two trapezoidal and one triangular, and 2 glue-ups.

Dimensions are based on cutting panels the same width as the thickness of the timber at a unique angle. This angle is based on a triangle whose base equals its height. To calculate this angle, you need to bisect this triangle and use basic trigonometry. The tangent of an angle is 'opposite over adjacent'. Since the triangle has been bisected, we get  $(x / \frac{1}{2}x)$  equals 2. Look this up on the tan tables and we get  $63^\circ$ . Of course if you are like me, you could simply draw a triangle to scale and measure the angle with a protractor.

I have written out instructions with a couple of photos, so if anyone wants to have a go, I am prepared to help.

Editor here: It's a very long time since I last did any "basic trigonometry" so I'll ask for the instructions.



## Peter Warren has made a pair of speakers

Peter is an audiophile and his major hobby is making his own speakers. Peter is shown below with his most recent completed set of speakers.



In an unusual response to your editor's request for a report about these speakers Peter has instead offered a YouTube video. Here's the link:

Go to YouTube and in its search bar enter **J0gY9C8E-NM** (it doesn't need to be bold)

## An interesting quiz

Can you identify what is the item pictured below? It has something to do with wood-working?



The answer is on the final page of this newsletter.

# SHOW & TELL

## Peter Toby made a lovely box with a secret drawer

My wife and I follow the "Modern Gift" list of themes for wedding anniversary presents which is "Beryl, Tourmaline" for 38 years.

Easy enough for me to buy Joanne a fancy cut green tourmaline stone to become a pendant for her (still just a stone) but I don't wear much jewellery.

I do like playing cards (500) so I decided to make a box to hold my playing cards, score pad, pen and bottle openers. To fit the theme I would laser etch an anniversary message on the lid and inlay it with beryl or tourmaline (plus laser etch a short description on the base).



After about 7 months of research, eBay shopping and design changes, production began with the expert guidance of Ian Rudd (I couldn't have done it without Ian's help). There



were no exact plans, just the minimum internal dimensions and how I thought I could hide the drawer, then much discussion with Ian on how to actually build it.

### Components:

1. Silky Oak—For the sides and top of the box plus the matching pen (created on the lathe, mostly by

Barry)

- a. Emerald dust—For the inlay (emerald is a beryl)
3. Leather—To line the box and drawer
4. Art card to stick the leather on
5. Washing up sponge – For the internal lid cushion to press against the cards and hold them in place
6. Thin ply board For the box base and drawer carcass
7. Hardware
  - a. Hinges and clasp
  - b. Pen kit—
  - c. Magnets under the leather in the drawer, to hold the bottle openers in place
  - d. Spray glue
  - e. Masking tape
  - f. Resin For the emerald inlay
  - g. Rub on epoxy for the box finish
8. Finished Contents
  - a. 2 decks of playing cards
  - b. 1 silky oak pen
  - c. 1 score pad
  - d. 4 bottle openers in the shape of the Ace of Spades playing card

Construction of Hidden Drawer:

It's a secret.

# SHOW & TELL

## Ray Bywater's model Rolls Royce

Ray reports: This model Rolls Royce was built at home with a few basic hand tools during one of the Covid lockdowns.

This model was named the Silver Ghost because of its whisper quietness and was built from 1906 to 1927.

Rolls Royal sold them only as a motor, chassis and rolling gear. Coach builders made the cabin to suit the owners requirements.



I copied my model from one in the collection of Models of Yesteryear. Rosewood was mostly used on the guards and frame, maple on the bodywork. I think the two colours blend nicely and look quite attractive.

The wheels came from Bunnings, I cut out the centres, made a hub and fitted kitchen skewers for the spokes. I made the springs and hangars from aluminium strips, as I thought it would be easier for me than attempting to use wood.

*Editor here: Ray is modest, he won a prize at the Easter Show for this model.*

## Ian Rudd's Box Making skills are fabulous



The body of the box was made from some special Silky Oak that had been quarter sawn. The lid has a pocket machined into the face to accommodate the Australian Red Cedar medallion. This Cedar was inlaid with the Art Deco designed borders that were cut using the Laser. The Art Deco borders and the outside stringing was all done using Huon Pine.

The box is fitted with both brass hinges that open to 95 degrees and a simple closing button lock. The box is lined with a deep blue leather suede. The box was sanded through the grits to 320 grit and then applied with three coats of Osmo oil.

*Editor here: Ian's skills in box-making are fantastic and he makes it look so simple!*

## Mother's Day Sign

Late breaking news:

Delivered to Bunnings on 9 May, just in time for Mother's Day.



# 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.**

### Club Calendar

May 2023							5
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	31				

June 2023							6
S	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa	
				1	2	3	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
11	PH	13	14	15	16	17	
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	
25	26	27	28	29	30		

### Legend:

	Committee meeting 12.30 pm
	Club Days—members own projects
	Toy Making—No own projects
	Club Day and Woodcarvers evening
	MaxiDays
	First Saturday is Woodcarvers use of the Workshop

### Welcome to our new member

Please join me in welcoming the following new member to our wonderful club. We look forward to working with you.

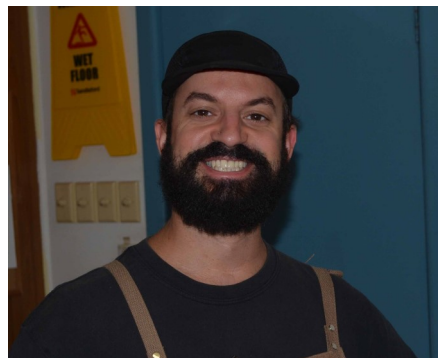
Ken Brunker, no photo yet

### The answer to the interesting puzzle on page 8

It's the resin tube excreted by the female lac bug, *Kerria lacca* it secretes it to form a tunnel-like tube as it traverses the branches of the tree. The number of lac bugs required to produce 1 kilogram (2.2 lb) of shellac has variously been estimated between 50,000 and 300,000.

For more details, go to the Wikipedia entry dealing with Shellac, it's an interesting read.

### Photo of newish member



Your editor managed to catch up with newish member, Daniel Blythe whose photo is shown opposite.

**Timber, Tools & Artisans Show—first weekend in June** will not go ahead. Alas, only Brisbane will have a show this year.

### Find us on FaceBook

In FaceBook search for Shire Woodworking Club

**Annual Subscriptions are due on 30 June.**

#### Raffle winners

Member Gary Healey drew the winning ticket, lucky member was:

1. Doug O'Hara, then followed
2. Axel Tennie
3. Ray De Marco
4. Gary Mitchell
5. David Johnston

### Members with Birthdays in May

Day	Member
6	Nader Ghazi
10	Steve Shakeshaft
14	Conal Downey
24	Bob Davis
26	Peter Mott
29	Matt Stuart

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



Printed as a community service at the office of  
**The Hon. Scott Morrison MP**

Federal Member for Cook

www.scottmorrisonmp.com.au