

**Port Stephens**



**Community  
Woodworkers  
Inc.**

# Woodnews

Official Newsletter of  
**PORT STEPHENS COMMUNITY WOODWORKERS INC.**

P.O. Box 425, Nelson Bay NSW 2315

Vol. 26 No 7 September, 2021

ABN 16 502 165 623 Website. <http://www.pswoodworkers.com.au>

## CLUB OFFICE BEARERS 2021- 2022

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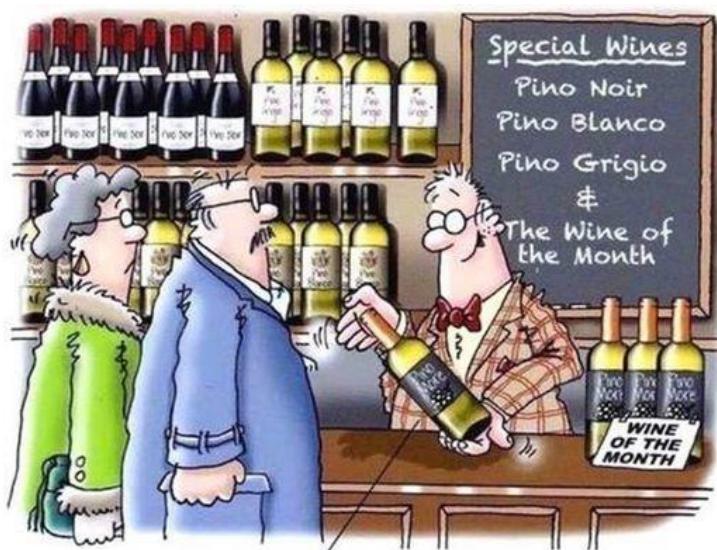
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You'll like this one! It's made from an anti-diuretic hybrid grape and reduces the number of trips people your age go to the toilet during the night.  
It's called PINO MORE!

## Dates to Remember

<b>October Monthly Meeting</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>12<sup>th</sup> October 2021</b>	<b>1.00 p.m. Workshop</b>
<b>School Projects</b>		<b>All cancelled</b>	
<b>Spring Fair</b>	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Cancelled</b>	.
<b>Bunnings BBQs</b>	<b>Saturday Saturday</b>	<b>18<sup>th</sup> September 18<sup>th</sup> December</b>	<b>Cancelled</b>
<b>Whale Watch/ Broughton Island</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>27<sup>th</sup> October</b>	<b>12.30am -5.30pm</b>
<b>Christmas Party</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>16<sup>th</sup> December 2021</b>	<b>6.00pm</b>

## SHOW & TELL



There was no meeting this month, so no Show and Tell but ChrisS finished off the major chess pieces at home and these pictures were taken.

So, the chess set is almost finished! The lining of the drawers is all that remains to be done and Bob Parrish is finishing this off at home.

ChrisS carved the major pieces, RodH carved the wombat pawns. BobP built the table and removeable chess board, KenR carved the side and drawer panels, VinceR turned the bases, GrahamM pressed the weights inside the bases and GeoffMc did the lacquoring. KenR has fully documented it. Fantastic work.

## TID BITS FROM THE SHED

- **Monday Duty Officer** Ken Richards has put his hand up for the Monday Duty Officer position, for when we return to the workshop. Thanks very much Ken. Someone was listening!
- **Woodnews Editor**. No one has yet put their hand up for Woodnews Editor. We've published it every month, except January, for the last 25 years. It would be a tragedy if it ceases publication because no one will volunteer. Come on guys, someone must have the skills and enthusiasm to keep it and the tradition going.
- **Australian Wood Review**. The chess set has been entered into the magazine's Maker of the Year Award. You can find it at the link below, just scroll down. It's in the Arts Objects section. If you click on a picture it takes you to the description. Unfortunately, the formatting has been removed on ours so it's hard to read. If you look further, you'll see Vince Rush has an entry too!  
<https://www.woodreview.com.au/moty2021/art-objects-2021>
- **On-Line Chess Set Raffle** We've registered with Raffle Link to sell tickets on line. We reduced the paper tickets to 4,000 and added 11,000 on-line tickets (optimistic?) for a total of 15,000. The link is:  
<https://rafflelink.com.au/pscwcchesssetraffle>  
Please propagate this around to all your contacts and ask them to distribute it further. The link will go to Frank Future and Kate Washington to be put on their web sites. Ines will put it on our Facebook page and we'll get it on our web site too.
- **Vaccinations** The Premier has made it clear that once 70% of the NSW population is fully vaccinated, then restaurants and the like can open up to fully vaccinated customers. The extent of such restrictions are still being finalised and they may or may not apply to us as a community organisation. Even if they don't, it seems likely that members will still support such conditions for entry into our workshop and this can be tested. The Exec Committee minutes noted that it was difficult to secure vaccination appointments in the local area, however, there are immediate appointments for AZ available in Raymond Terrace for those prepared to travel.
- **Outside Wall** Geoff McClelland has pressure cleaned the brick wall and foundation behind the morning tea area, so that it can be sealed, as, in heavy rain, water comes through behind the two dust extractors where we have power points. Thanks Geoff.
- **More on John Jeffress Big Birthday** John had his 85<sup>th</sup> birthday on 9<sup>th</sup> September under lockdown conditions with some cakes from the Wanda Beach bakery but no candles😊. We'll have to make it up to you at morning tea when we get back to the workshop, John. I hear that you like their caramel slice!
- **Driveway** John Jeffress has also been busy talking to the Plant brothers who built our extension, to see if we can get our driveway levelled and compacted down so that the water doesn't pool. Mates rates or better, of course.
- **Whale Watch/Broughton Island**. This trip is now pencilled in for 27<sup>th</sup> October, 12.30pm till 5.30pm, Covid permitting of course. Please put in your diary.





## Membership Fees

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**Members are reminded that your annual membership fees of \$40 must be paid by 30<sup>th</sup> September.**

**While the workshop is closed there are three payment options:**

1. Cash : Put your \$40 in an envelope with your name and description and drop into the mailbox of any Executive Committee member, addresses above or
2. Cash: Fill out a deposit slip at the Salamander Bay branch of the Newcastle Permanent Building Society using the BSB and Account detail below. Use your name as the reference.
3. By Direct Deposit to:

Bank	Newcastle Permanent Building Society
Account Name.	Port Stephens Community Woodworkers Inc.
BSB	650 300
Account No.	953293009
Reference	Your Name



## Vale Ray Belcher

Bob Grant represented our club at Ray's funeral and was asked by the family to give a eulogy – a testament to the way Ray and his family held the club in high esteem. The family asked for no flowers but that any donations be made to the club. A very generous gesture indeed.

If you missed the service, it can be replayed on the following link <https://vimeo.com/598512835/a758f87ab3>. You can read Bob's eulogy below:

### Eulogy by Bob Grant

My name is Bob Grant. I'm a member of the Port Stephens Community Woodworkers Club in Nelson Bay, of which Ray was a Life Member. According to my records, Ray joined the Club on the 8<sup>th</sup> August, 2000. He was member number 48.

Although not a Charter member, he was one of our earliest members and made his presence felt from the outset. I mean that in the nicest way as he was not one to sit back and let others do all the work. He was one of the first to roll up his sleeves when there was work to be done.

During his long service with the Club, he served as a normal member, Committee Member, Secretary, and finally as its President. His membership over 21 years saw him involved in numerous other projects within the Club.

He helped set up our Constitution, formulated several of the Club's Policies, and was a driving force behind the building of the Club's workshop in its current premises as part of the Community Arts Centre. This involved many hours of work, arranging Government Grants, keeping accurate financial records, and mountains of paperwork. On one occasion he assisted the Club in dealing with a serious dispute between two of our members as, at the time, the Club had no previous experience in dealing with such matters. Ray also excelled as a gopher for our Bunnings BBQs, being willing to travel into Salamander Bay whenever we ran out of supplies and also selling tickets in our raffles.

Ray also had great skills as a woodworker and was proud of what members could achieve. He helped set up and ran our "School Program" for several years which involved our members making items in kit form such as tool boxes, bird nests, etc. for primary students to assemble as part of their school activities. This has been very popular with local

schools and still operates today. The tool boxes required a round handle about one inch thick and a foot long (old measurements I know) and these were turned on a lathe. He was appalled to discover someone had decided to buy dowels from Bunnings to save members doing the work. As far as Ray was concerned, this was not on. As woodworkers, we had to make the handles ourselves. He then produced the square blanks so that members could turn them on a lathe.

In 2017, the Club instituted an annual prize at the St Philips Christian College in Salamander Bay for the best woodworking student in Year 12. It is known as the **Ray Belcher Award** in recognition of Ray's contribution to the community and consists of a Certificate and a cash prize of \$100 to the winning student.

Being a member of the Club' Executive, meant that monthly Committee Meetings were held on a rotation basis at members residences. When it was Ray's turn, his wife, Meg, proved to be an excellent host and afternoon tea was always something special.

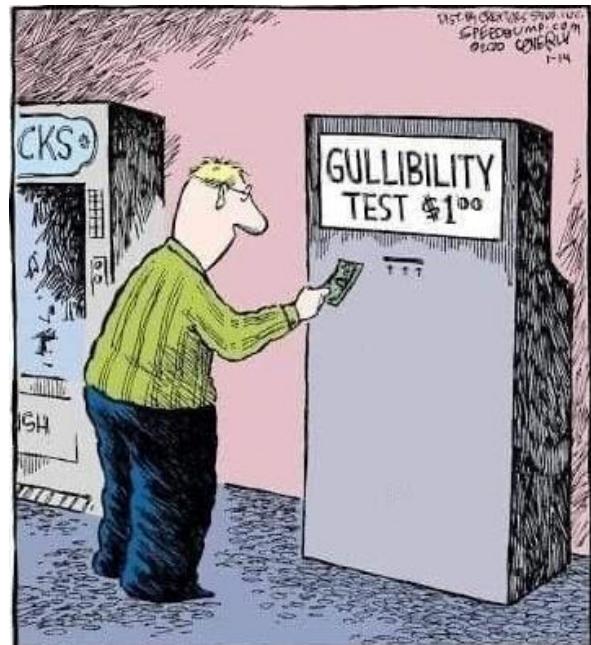
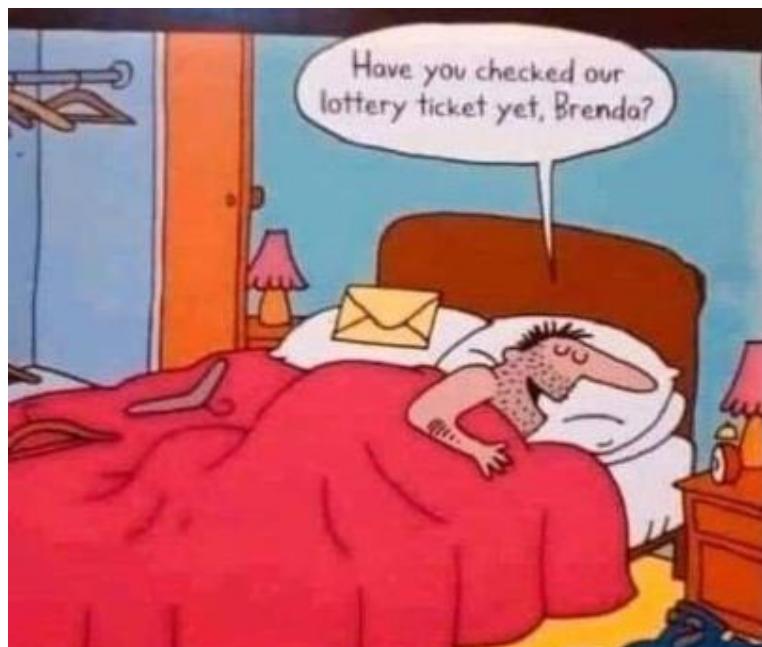
I didn't join the Club until 2008 but we immediately liked each other and became firm friends. Although Ray had been in Care at Maitland for the last few years our friendship never wavered and we often spoke to each other on the phone to reminisce and check on each other's welfare. He never complained and always said how well he and Meg were treated at "Benhome".

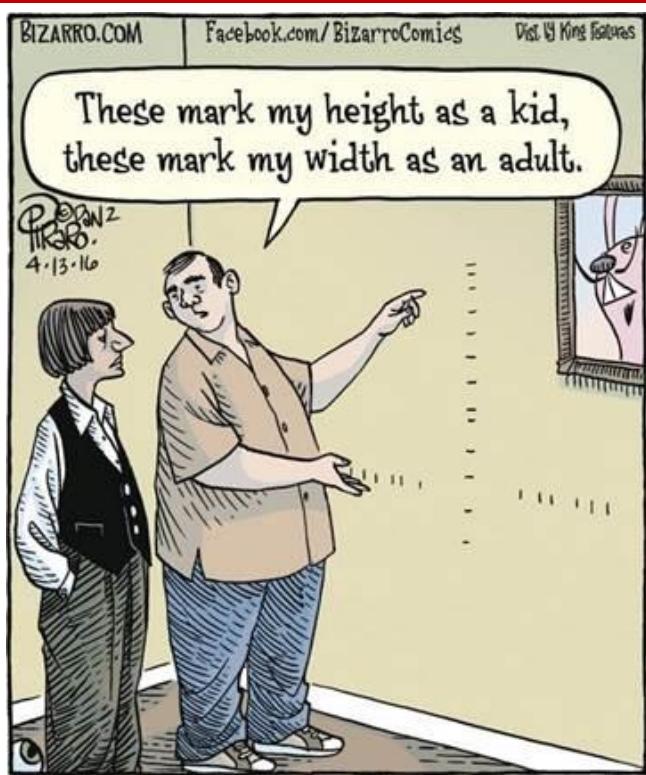
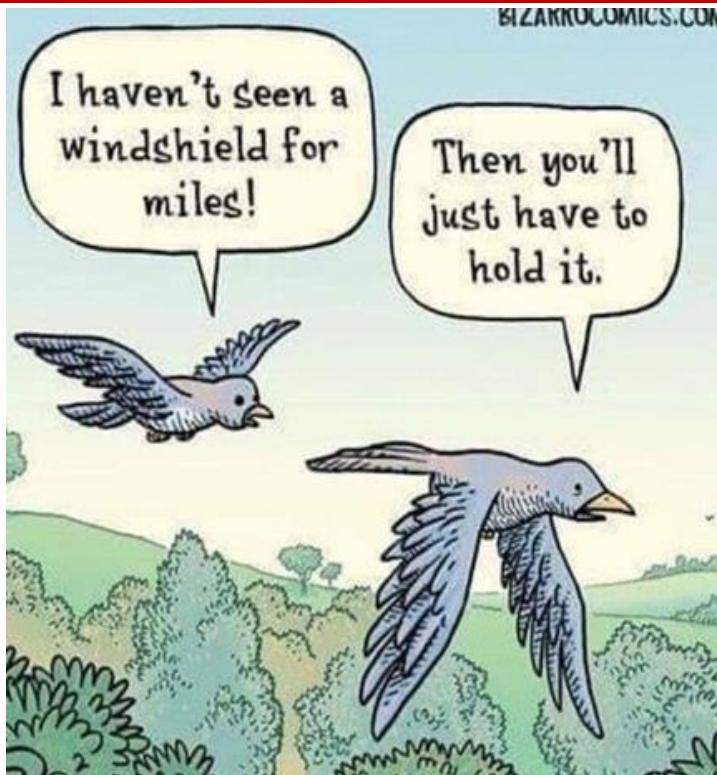
As mentioned previously, Ray was made a Life Member in recognition of his services to our Club. This took place at our Christmas Party on the 13<sup>th</sup> December, 2011. Ray was a great supporter of our social activities and his poetry readings at our annual Christmas Party were legendary.

Ray was a great guy; a great friend; a great servant of our Club; and a great President. Not only was he a gentleman but, to most of us, a Gentle Man. On behalf of the Port Stephens Community Woodworkers, I express our sympathies to all of Ray's Family and I know that those of our members who knew him, personally mourn his passing.

Thank you for the opportunity to say a few words on behalf of our members.

### Jokes of the Month





### The Assassin

The CIA had an opening for an assassin.

After all the background checks, interviews and testing were done, there were three finalists: two men and a woman.

For the final test, the CIA agents took one of the men to a large metal door and handed him a gun.

"We must know that you will follow your instructions no matter what the circumstances. Inside the room you will find your wife sitting in a chair. Kill her."

The man said: "You can't be serious. I could never shoot my wife".

The agent said, "Then you are not the right man for this job. Take your wife and go home".

The second man was given the same instructions. He took the gun and went into the room. All was quiet for about five minutes. The man came out with tears in his eyes,

"I tried, but I can't kill my wife."

The agent said, "You don't have what it takes, so take your wife and go home"

Finally, it was the woman's turn. She was given the same instructions to kill her husband. She took the gun and went into the room. Shots were heard one after another.

They heard screaming, crashing, and banging on the walls. After a few minutes, all was quiet. The door opened slowly and there stood the woman, wiping sweat from her brow.

What was all the noise about, asked the CIA agent?

"The gun was loaded with blanks" she said. "I had to kill him with the chair"

### The Bathtub Test

During a visit to my doctor, I asked him, "How do you determine whether or not an older person should be put in an old age home?"

"Well," he said, "we fill up a bathtub, then we offer a teaspoon, a teacup and a bucket to the person and ask them to empty the bathtub."

"Oh, I understand," I said. "A normal person would use the bucket because it is bigger than the spoon or the teacup."

"No" he said "A normal person would pull the plug. Do you want a bed near the window?"

ARE YOU GOING TO PASS THIS ON? OR DOYOU WANT THE BED NEXT TO MINE.

### Satnav – A Poem by Pam Ayres.

I have a little Satnav, it sits there in my car. A Satnav is a driver's friend it tells you where you are. I have a little Satnav, I've had it all my life. It's better than the normal ones, my Satnav is my wife.

It gives me full instructions, especially how to drive "It's sixty miles an hour", it says, "You're doing sixty five". It tells me when to stop and start, and when to use the brake and tells me that it's never ever, safe to overtake.

It tells me when a light is red, and when it goes to green It seems to know instinctively, just when to intervene. It lists the vehicles just in front, and all those to the rear. And taking this into account, it specifies my gear.

I'm sure no other driver, has so helpful a device. For when we leave and lock the car, it still gives its advice. It fills me up with counselling, each journey's pretty fraught. So why don't I exchange it, and get a quieter sort?

Ah well, you see, it cleans the house, makes sure I'm properly fed. It washes all my shirts and things, and keeps me warm in bed! Despite all these advantages, and my tendency to scoff, I only wish that now and then, I could turn the bugger off.

### Celibacy

Celibacy can be a choice in life, or a condition imposed by circumstances.

While attending a Marriage Weekend, my wife and I listened to the instructor declare 'It is essential that husbands and wives know the things that are important to each other.'

He then addressed the men, 'can you name and describe your wife's favourite flower?'

I leaned over, touched my wife's hand gently, and whispered, 'Self-raising, isn't it?'

And thus began my life of celibacy.