

**The Official Newsletter of the SHIRE WOODWORKING CLUB Inc.** Reg. No. Y2889524 ABN: 15 974 163 667

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

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This is a bumper edition— we have the results of the 2023 Plank Competition and all of the entries of the prize winners -



See pages 3 through 7 for more photos and reports from Plank Competition entrants.



**CLUB COMMITTEE:**

President: Ian Rudd  
Vice President: Malcolm Armstrong  
Secretary: Maurice Smith  
 Telephone 0414 538 475  
Treasurer: Alan Ritchie  
Committee Members: Roger Dixon, Gary Healey  
 Graham Ethell

**SUB-COMMITTEES & Auxiliary Positions**

Assistant Secretary: Roger Dixon  
Assistant Treasurer: Roger Walsh  
Project Sub-Committee: Ken Bruncker & 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  
Newsletter Editor: Roger Walsh  
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, Ray Tregoning & James Windschuttle  
Raffles: Gary Mitchell  
Exhibitions Sub-Committee: Graham Ethell  
Property Sub-Committee: Graham Ethell & Alan Ritchie  
Toymaking: Malcolm Armstrong, Barry Gardner, Steve Lansley & Maurice Smith.,  
Facebook: Alan Ritchie  
WebMaster: Maurice Smith  
Woodcarvers' Liaison:

**Librarian's Report**

*We have received Fine WoodWorking Magazine Issue 305 October 2023. Usual section on Workshop Tips. Take a look at the Handwork section on how to 'Sharpen Odd Shapes', a great article on 'Shaker Hanging Cabinet', how to 'Refurbish a Vintage Block Plane', a detailed explanation of 'Sanding, Under the Microscope', 'Elegant Table Comes Together at the Corner' and 'Carve Spoons from Pre-Bent Planks'. The magazine is in the Gallery magazine rack now.*

*Happy Woodworking Roger Walsh, Club Librarian.*

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 21 OCTOBER,  
2023**

8:45am	Open Lilli Pilli Workshop
9:00am	Monthly Meeting
9:30am	Video — Ian's selection
10:00am	Morning Tea
10:30am	Show & Tell
11:00am	Estate Planning—Guest speaker Gary Mitchell
12:00noon	Lunch – Gourmet salad rolls
1:00pm	Raffle Draw
1:15pm	Demonstration of new Festool Track Saw
1:45	Members projects
3.00pm	Workshop Close

**President's Report**

Our September Maxiday again showcased the skills of our members who submitted items for our annual Plank competition. This year we had a total of 14 entries and the standard of design and workmanship was exceptional. Every year this competition always improves and also enables the club to either donate the items to one of our charities or sell the items to raise funds for our club. Congratulations to the winners and well done to everyone who participated.

The club now owns a Festool TS55 Plunge saw and tracks that allow large sheets to be safely and accurately cut. The saw is battery powered and will be demonstrated to members during our October Maxiday. This purchase was made possible by our successful application for a Grant from the Federal Government Stronger Communities Program. These grants make a huge difference to a small club like ours and inspire us to give back to the community.

A reminder to all members regarding safety in the workplace. Please be aware of other members when working in the workshop especially when operating equipment. When you have finished using any machine, please leave the machine and surrounds in a clean condition and put scraps or offcuts in the waste bins.

Happy Woodworking  
 Ian Rudd  
 President

# 2023 Plank Competition winners & placegetters

The results of the 2023 Plank Competition are:

Class	Position	Winner	Toy
A	1	Tim Dodds	Kenworth truck & trailers
	2	Geoff Tong	Pull along turtle
	3	Graham Ethell	Connect 4 game (3 copies)
B	1	Tom Croucher	Farm tractor, trailer, and animals (2 copies)
	2	Gary Healey	Pull along dragon
	3	Bob Winwood	Pull along rabbit and squirrel
C	1	Ray Bywater	Camper van, trailer and golf buggy
	2	Maurice Smith	Ferris wheel
	3	Peter Warren	Tower crane

Congratulations to all. Photos for each of the above listed members are set out below and in the following pages.

**Class A:** Winner—Tim Dodds, Kenworth Truck and 2 trailers.



Tim reports: I wanted to create something that would get children involved in playing and interacting with the toy. A truck! I could see my grandchildren loading and unloading the trailer and driving it around.

My web search was limited – semi-trailers don't look good side on. All I found was a concept elevation for the 2015 Kenworth W900 Project – which is what I based my drawn up plans on.

With Excel I scaled up a set of plans and approximate measures

as well as side/front elevations. This provided the base for several design changes, sizing adjustments, etc. – to optimise use of the plank.

Initially too much of the plank was taken by the wheels and the trailer bodies. I wanted to have at least 2 trailer options, so the kids could "unhitch" and swap them around – I achieving this by having a common axle base with interchangeable trailer bodies.

To connect the trailer box to the chassis - each box base has 2 protruding blocks which align with cut-outs in the chassis – this together with edging around the chassis, prevents undesired separation.

I have built a Pantech – rear gate lowers from bottom and roof/top is hinged and opens – held with magnetic catches; and a bulky goods trailer. The prime mover is constructed using split plank sheets lasered to shape (including features) – sleeper sides & doors, cabin sides, and cabin doors (opening). The finished truck includes:-

- lasered steering wheel; dash; tool box; engine grill; front bumper bar with headlights; prime mover and trailer rear bumper bars with lights, safety strips, number plate
- air filters; side exhaust pipes; fuel tanks; various lights – sides of trailer, roof of cabin; mounted side driving mirrors; vertical cabin handrail; opening cabin doors; all windows are clear Perspex

When making toys I am very conscious that children love colour – with 5 coats to achieve a bright mid-blue with a faux metallic appearance.

To finish it off I designed a simple stripe which I took to a local sign company who made the vinyl strip.

## 2023 Plank Competition winners & placegetters

**Class A**—Second Place Geoff Tong and a pull-along turtle

Geoff reports: I made a smaller version of this pull along tortoise a few years ago and I underestimated the timber required for this giant toy.



This is a sturdy toy and will stand up to the roughest treatment. The balls for the legs are solid timber and the 16mm dowel used for the axles extends more than half the thickness of the ball.

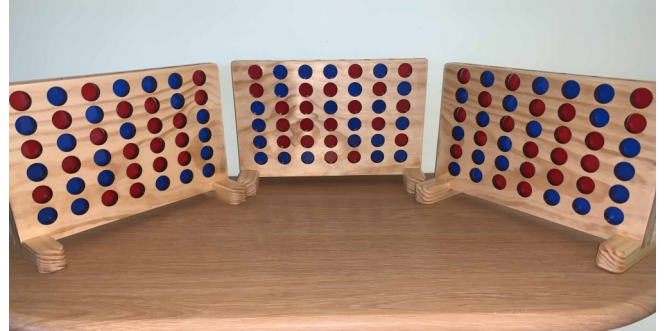
The body is made up of two planks laminated together and a smaller piece added to each side of the face to give it roundish head. The eyes are from a two dollar shop. I blackened the four legs so that when the tortoise is pulled along the movement of the legs are less noticeable and the focus is on big segmented ball spinning.

The large segmented ball is the most difficult part. Although it is made up of simple 12 segment rings but calculating the ring diameter and segment thickness to follow the contour of the sphere was not easy and a couple of rings ended up the trash bin.

Water base gloss polyurethane was used to finished the project.

**Class A**—Third place—Graham Ethell and 3 copies of the Connect 4 game

Graham reports: Before starting out I had to check the measurements of the standard game which are 7 columns wide x 6 rows high. (I had originally thought they were each a bit less).



The internet has various other combinations, but the above seemed to be the standard. After working out the various dimensions (see September newsletter), I drew the design using the laser software. Everything was then cut out on the laser and glued together. The feet were also from excess plank. After sanding etc the finish was 3 coats of the Anchor gloss acrylic.

I was going to cut the counters out from some excess bits of the plank, but fortunately the request came from Bunnings for the large game, so I used the offcuts from the donated acrylic for the counters. It saved a lot of painting. If you haven't added it up there are 126 counters in total which would have had to be painted.

There's not much more I can say that wasn't in the September Newsletter re the large game we made for Bunnings, except that having gone through the process for the Plank Comp, it made the design for the Bunnings game relatively easy.

**Class B**—First Place Tom Croucher's Farm tractor, trailer and farm animals

When I decided to make a tractor towing a trailer with a few farm animals in it, I had no idea of the challenges or the time it would take. Fortunately, I started in April and the task took 4 months.

Firstly, I could not find any plans online that matched what I had in mind. So, I drew a few pictures and then created a set of plans. Then I had to scale the sizes down to get two toys out of the one plank. And that took a lot of planning to have sections of the plank with different thicknesses while fitting all the parts in.

After making all the 150 parts, the second major challenge was to determine the order of assembling the parts and giving the parts a finish of timber oil, because once fully assembled there would be parts of the toy that could not be coated with the oil. Many hours went

*(Continued on page 5)*



# 2023 Plank Competition winners & placegetters

into the process which was started, scrapped and redone a few times.

I am quite happy with the end result, and it is very rewarding when other woodworkers like the outcome as well.



time on the bandsaw cutting the pieces from the plank .

The thing I learnt was to make the band sawing as neat as possible, as there is a lot of hand sanding around the head and mane if you are not careful.

The design called for off-the-shelf wheels but I cut them and finished them on the lathe.

The design calls for a floppy tail, I assumed that was for safety reasons in case a child fell on the pointed tail. I purchased the leather for the flexible tail and red tongue from Birdsalls Leather shop in Taren Point.

The finish was several coats of Anchor clear lacquer, sanding between coats.

## **Class B — Third Place Bob Winwood, Pull along Squirrel and Rabbit**

This year's entry was produced from a book of toys that I found in the Club's library. It is always a difficult task to come up with a solution as to what to make but the book gave me some ideas. I like pull-along toys as I believe kids enjoy these types, especially younger children.



## **Class B—Second Place, Gary Healey and his pull along dragon**

Gary reports: I found the design in one of the toy making books in the Club's library.



I drew the template on tracing paper and glued the template to the timber and then spent some

The main challenge was to make the tail on the squirrel, it was very labour intensive in the shaping process. It also was not easy attaching it to the main body, it needed to be pinned because of the weight. Most of the work was done on the bandsaw along with both the linisher and bobbin sander.

I agonised over what finish to use, thinking it may look good in different colours but ended up resorting to using orange oil. This is easy to use but produces a great finish especially if there is some variation in grain in the wood.

The Plank competition is a lot of fun once you make the decision of what to make. I would thoroughly recommend that everyone should give it a go in next year's competition. I have started looking for what I can make next year. There are heaps of options in the Club's library and the internet.

# 2023 Plank Competition winners & placegetters

**Class C** - First Place Ray Bywater and his camper, trailer and golf cart

Ray reports: There was an image of this motor camper on the internet. I guessed the proportions and hoped they would be ok. It was quite simple to make, but I had



a lot of problems fitting the doors, which are un-adjustable once they have been cut into the adjoining panels.

My wife made the sleeping bags, and I finished it by adding some furniture, a kayak and surfboard.

When I looked at it I thought the camper needed a bit more, so I added the golf cart. This was copied from a small plastic model, the clubs were a bit difficult because of their size.

I look forward to entering again next year.

painted, as was the axle hub.

One unexpected issue that caused me some grief was the handle that turns the small gear. Initially, I glued the handle to the axle shaft. However, due to the small surface area of the shaft and the torque impacted by the rotation, the handle quickly detached from the axle. Eventually, I drilled a fine hole through the handle and axle and then inserted a small panel pin. That solved the problem quite nicely.

With the benefit of hindsight I subsequently realised that the method I employed for the hub assembly could have been much easier. So in the unlikely event that I ever make another Ferris wheel I know how to make the hub in an easier fashion.

I'm already contemplating what my 2024 Plank competition entry will be. I thoroughly enjoyed making the Ferris wheel. I encourage members to participate in this competition. It's a great way to build skills.

**Class C**—Second Place, Maurice Smith and a Ferris Wheel

Maurice reports: The idea for this toy came to me last 2022 and I noted it in my diary for early April this year. In due course it diary entry popped up and I was still entranced by the idea.

When the planks became available I started work by sketching (that's a generous description) a Ferris wheel. After doing some calculations I figured out how big I could make the wheel and how many arms I could make. As I had no plans, I made it up as I went along. Apart from the axle hub the construction went well. However, the hub posed considerable challenges, including some of the engineering type.



The gears that drive the hub were designed on a great website that I found and I was able to download the design in a format that the Club's laser cutter was able to read. After a few experiments I found that a bottom gear of 15 teeth and a top gear of 60 teeth was ideal. On the laser I cut the gears in 3mm thick acrylic. To ensure that the gears always meshed I then cut two circular pieces of acrylic slightly larger than the 60 tooth gear. I glued the 60 tooth gear between the two acrylic circles and by doing so I formed a channel that trapped the small gear.

The major pieces of the construction are coated with several coats of blonde Shellac. Some of the arms and the seat buckets were

## 2023 Plank Competition winners & placegetters

### Class C - Third Place, Peter Warren and his tower crane

Peter reports: As a civil engineering project manager working for Sutherland Council I'm out and about the local area a great deal and I'm used to seeing tower cranes on the many construction sites in the Council's area. Those cranes were my inspiration for this toy.



Like many other entrants in this year's competition I had no plans to work from and so I made up my plans and then had fun building the crane.

Even though I'm a civil engineer, some of the mechanical engineering aspects of the build caused me a few moments of heart ache. However, in the end the crane works well and hoists loads as well as do the real life cranes.

It was a fun project and one that I really enjoyed.

## SHOW & TELL

Due to the Plank Competition entries and its' judging process only one member had items for the regular Show and Tell session.

### David Edwards make some fishing rod holder racks



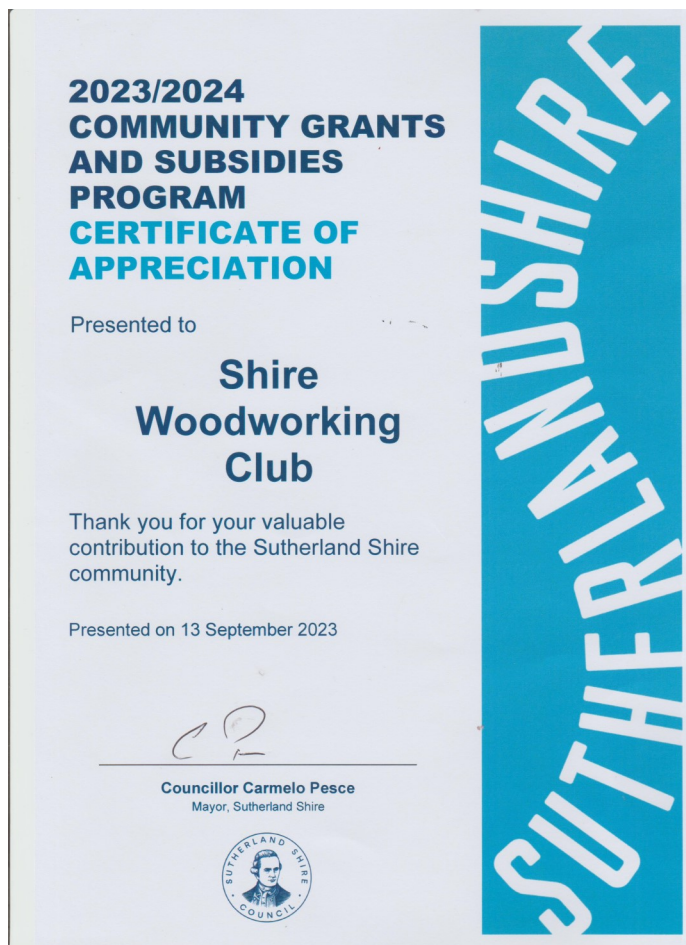
David also made an interesting prototype of a game board. Editor here: I hope to be able to bring to you a photo and report in the next edition



## Sutherland Shire Council Community Grants

Earlier this year the Club applied for a grant from our local Council—Sutherland Shire Council. Our application was successful. The grant funds will be used to purchase lots of plywood that we will use in making toys for the various children’s charities we support, most notably, of course, Sydney Children’s Hospital.

On 13 September, President Ian Rudd and Secretary Maurice Smith attended a function hosted by Sutherland Council. All 39 not-for-profit groups receiving grants were invited to attend to receive our certificates. At the function the Mayor, Carmelo Pesce, spoke about the great work done by the various groups. In all, the Council disbursed almost \$500,000 to this year’s awardees.



Receiving the certificate from Mayor, Carmelo Pesce.

The certificate shown opposite is now in a frame on the wall in the Gallery.

## Roger Dixon receives his OBE



Last MaxiDay, Committee member, Roger Dixon was briefly on hand to receive his OBE from President Ian Rudd.

After receiving his certificate Roger then headed off to Bunnings store at Taren Point where he was one of two Club members attending to the Club’s sales stall which we had been invited to hold. Thanks to Ken from Bunnings for the invitation.



## Seen in the workshop recently

**Member, Nader Ghazi brought his current project into the workshop recently**



The artwork has been done by hand, using various pens. This is one of two side panels.

The other side panel. Lovely artwork. Definitely an Egyptian influence is displayed.



This is the front, with two drawers partly open.

Part of the contents of one of the drawers.



**New member Brian McCarthy's current work in progress—**



New member, Brian McCarthy is presently working on this project. It's made using hardwood so its extremely heavy. The sides are straight. No, it's not a liquor barrel. Brian has told your editor that it's the start of a coffee table.

As the project progresses there may be an update or two.

Here's a great clue



Yes, it's a chess board.

Editor here: hopefully we can prevail on Nader for a full report on this project.







# Coming Up!

## Club Calendar

October 2023							10
S	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa	
1	PH	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					

November 2023							11
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 12.30 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 members

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

#393 Brian McCarthy

Raffle winners	
1.	David Johnstone
2.	Tom Croucher
3.	David Johnstone (yes, again)
4.	Ray De Marco

Lots of laughing at David Johnstone's round of good luck.

## Members with Birthdays in October

Day	Member
5	Ant Boyd
8	Peter Edwards
9	Daniel Blythe
31	David Whitney

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

## 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.**

### The Gallery Sales day

The sales day on 14 October was a great success. As the school next door to the Workshop is a polling station and was open for voting on Referendum Day the Club took advantage of the passing foot traffic heading to and from the school.

The sales result exceeded all expectations, it was certainly the best Gallery election/referendum sales day for over 7 years.

The corollary of this is that our stock of toys has been depleted. We have another major sales event coming up on 5 November 2023. That gives us less than 3 weeks to prepare!

### Small spray booth

First mooted several years ago and then delayed for multiple reasons the Club is looking to purchase a small spray booth, ideal for lacquers, paints, stains, etc. Keep tuned for progress reports.

### Find us on the web

Go to [www.shirewoodworking.com.au](http://www.shirewoodworking.com.au)

### Find us on FaceBook

In FaceBook search for Shire Woodworking Club

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FEDERAL MEMBER FOR COOK

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