

The Cutting Edge

Volume 1 No. 10

Hornsby Woodworking Men's Shed

Spring 2016

Member Profile: David Harrison

I was born in Manly in 1942 and lived with the family in Seaforth until I was married in 1968. I met my future wife Margaret when we were both members of the River Canoe Club. We bought a home in Pymble where we lived until moving to our present home in Turramurra. I have three sons; Stuart, Andrew and James

I was educated at Knox Grammar School and, on leaving in 1960, joined the Stock and Station Agency, Pitt Son & Badgery Ltd.

After three years, I decided to travel around Australia. The company offered me a job as a jackaroo as I could ride horses with Elder Smith & Co. I spent the next 18 months in the Northern Territory, Western Australia and Queensland, working with cattle. When I returned, Pitt Son & Badgery offered me a job that made me responsible for their wool bond store.

At this stage, I decided to get my Auctioneers, Stock and Station Agent and Real Estate licence. On achieving that, I realised that with another three years' study, I could qualify to become a registered valuer. That involved working with a licensed valuer who is recognised by the Australian Institute of Valuers. I then left Pitt Sons and joined Douglas Uzzell Real Estate where I ran the Property Management Department while being mentored by the valuer, Ian Chadwick.

Doug then started an Agency at Hornsby and asked me to be the licensee of his business which I ran until the late 1970s.

Following that, I successfully applied for a job at Kent Brewery. I stayed with them for 15 years in the property and accounting office. I had become involved with the Royal Volunteer Coastal Patrol and the fact that they had rostered days off gave me more free time for that, it worked out well.

When the brewery was closing down at Broadway, I took redundancy and joined Alastair Mitchell in a maritime consultancy which was used by insurance companies to re assess risk in the fishing and maritime industry. This was extremely interesting because it required going to sea with the fishing and working vessels and identifying potential risks then putting into place procedures and training to minimise those risks. This meant that they could lower their fees and the risk borne by their insurance companies.



With a varied career while earning a living, I guess my greatest interests were related to the sea. As a boy living in Seaforth I was able to go sailing, yachting and canoeing most weekends.

When I left school, I joined The River Canoe Club at Tempe first doing white water in canvas canoes. I then joined a group to learn how to make the first fibreglass TK1 kayaks

In 1974 I joined The Royal Volunteer Coastal Patrol. The organisation consists of over 1,200 members over 20 bases. Their function is to monitor marine radio traffic and to provide rescue vessels. The members are all volunteers and provide a crew every weekend and are on call during the week.



Over the past 40 years I was a Divisional Commander of Broken Base on three different occasions. For nearly 20 years I was the National Education and Training Officer, elected to the Board for six years. In 2001 I was made a Life Member. Also, that year, I was awarded the Centenary Medal for service to the community. When the three rescue organisations in NSW were amalgamated to form Marine Rescue NSW in 2010, I was made a Life Member of that organisation. For long active service I have been presented with both the National and NSW long service medals. I will be standing down from active service at the end of this year.

How did I become interested in woodwork? I had, over the years, made a number of wooden boats and was looking for something to do after I stood down from my role as Education Officer with RVCP. I had not used many power tools and when, by chance, in 2004 when I was at Birkenhead Point I saw long time member and Triton Demonstrator Barry Lofthouse demonstrating the versatile cutting abilities of the Triton Saw Table. He was so enthusiastic about its capabilities as well as telling me about the local Hills District Triton Users Group at Sinclair Avenue Thornleigh. After talking to him for some time, I decided to follow his invitation to visit the Club and was delighted to find a group of enthusiastic and helpful woodworkers so I subsequently joined what is now the Hornsby Woodworking Men's Shed. Looking back over the last twelve years with the Shed, it has become a large part of my retired life. I held the position of Librarian for many years, became rather good at making pens and, at the last AGM, put my name forward to fill the vacant Vice President role. This position will allow me to understudy the President and take over from him when he retires after his three year term, probably at the AGM in August 2017.



David in his home workshop

Our Stall At Cumberland Forest Fair

The Forest Fair is held every two years and has become a traditional venue for the Shed to sell its wares, especially since we don't attend school spring fetes anymore.

As usual, a lot of planning went into the preparation for the event, including calling for volunteers to handle various tasks on the day. This culminated in the packing of a large number of Shed made items into a number of vehicles the day before, for transport to the Fair the following day.

8.00a.m. on Sunday 30 October, saw several of our volunteers setting up the stall which had been provided to us by Forestry Corporation, at no charge. Luckily, there was additional space to spread our stock and place the raffle prizes in a prominent position. The day was mostly overcast and humid with a possibility of rain forecast but it held off until the evening.



Children enjoyed playing with the toys but that didn't result in a lot of sales.



The Treasurer reported the takings for the day: We made \$307 on the raffle plus sales of \$1,051. In addition, we had orders for two tables and chairs, one of Andrew Dryburgh's marble run and Jim Spence's Digger, worth another \$170. So, all up, it was a good result for the Shed. Our thanks go to all who assisted to make it an enjoyable and profitable day.

The 2016 Annual General Meeting and The Shed's Management Structure

This year, the AGM was held on 19 August at lunchtime, together with a Special Meeting to vote on the expenditure for the proposed centralized dust collection system and the regular Members' Monthly Meeting.

It was a break from the long tradition of holding meetings in the evening. Forty two members attended the meeting, leaving over a hundred who lacked the interest to either apologise or give their proxies. That is the reason for this article and the one following, about the role of members.

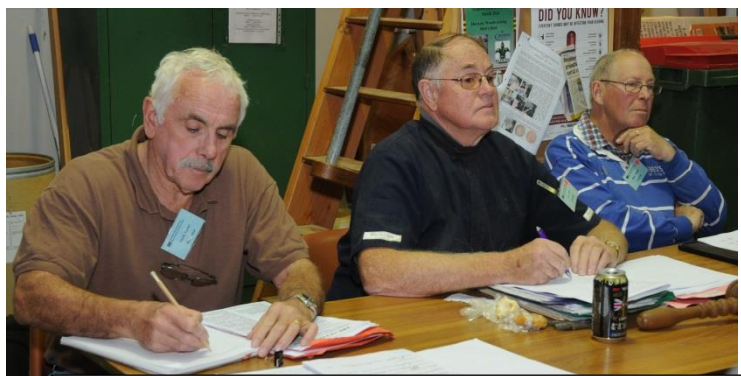


The Shed is governed by its Constitution and other operating documentation such as Safety Procedures and Standing Orders that are communicated to new members during the induction process. The Shed was established in 2001, with the assistance and ongoing support of the Sales Manager of Triton Manufacturing & Design Co. Pty. Ltd. who arranged a meeting at the Castle Hill Mitre 10 in May 2001 by inviting its customers, who lived in the Postcodes adjacent to Castle Hill, with the objective of forming a (Triton) woodworking club. It was a great success. Interest was registered by 44 potential members. This resulted in the formation of a small Committee, consisting of a President, Secretary and Treasurer who put in a lot of hard work in the ensuing months to establish a structure for the Club that had its first members' meeting on 3 October 2001.

In the 15 years since then, we have only had four Presidents and three Secretaries, some of whom have been recognized on the Honour Board. Unfortunately, at times, it has proved difficult to recruit members for some of the elected and other positions.



The AGM is the time of the year that members should focus on ways that they can support the Shed's operation. I always enjoy attending workshops, both for the satisfaction of creating things from timber and the enjoyment of the other members company. The management has made the Shed what it is today. The significant resources allocated to dealing with Council over a number of years to extend our previous premises at Headen Park and then the good fortune to be offered our current home in Sefton Road. We are over six years into a ten year lease which, despite our best efforts to give us long-term security, Council has only offered to extended one year. The Shed is very well equipped and maintained, in accordance with its Mission Statement of improving members' woodworking skills, donating to charities and



Secretary David Tarren; President Ian Raper; Treasurer Mark Wilson

being involved in the local community, all achieved while being, essentially, self-funded. The many ways that funds are raised are described in the annual accounts.

A lot of work has gone into the research of a suitable centralised dust collection system (see page 14) to improve the removal of harmful particulates from the atmosphere. The benefits of spending around \$40,000 had been well communicated to members in the months leading up to the Special Members' Meeting. The Constitution requires that members approve that expenditure, hence the Special General Meeting held on 19 August, in conjunction with the monthly members' meeting and AGM. A number of questions were asked at the meeting about the location of the structure, ducting, maintenance costs and benefits over the existing individual dust extractors. That led to the vote. As you can see from the photo at right, 100% of those present plus all proxies voted in favour of the proposal.



The Role of Members

The Constitution has a number of references to members:

- (1) To attract people to a Shed where members have a common interest in working with wood.*
- (2) To bring together individuals for the enjoyment of using Triton and other equipment for woodworking activities.*
- (3) To create an environment in which people can commence or improve their woodworking skills, through access to equipment and the free exchange of knowledge and assistance.*
- (7) To acquire, provide, conduct, carry on and manage Sheds, Shed premises, equipment, and other amenities for Members or their dependants.*
- (10) The Shed shall be non-political and non-sectarian with membership open to all members of the community. The Shed encourages over 55 retirees who are looking for satisfying fellowship and a productive working outlet.*

The section on fees includes:

- (1) The entrance fees, subscriptions (annual or otherwise) and other fees or charges payable by Members..... shall from time to time be prescribed by the Committee.*
- (2) Should fees, ... payable by a Member not be paid within six (6) months of such fees being due to be paid following an offer of renewal of membership then that Member's membership of the Shed shall lapse whereupon the Secretary shall remove that Member's name from the register of Members.*
- (3) "The Committee may in its absolute discretion refuse to offer to any member a renewal of membership*

All the above refer to the benefits received by a member on membership. The Constitution does not refer to the support required of members for the Shed to survive into the future but this is one of the most important elements of the Shed's ongoing viability and one which has assured our success over the last fifteen years.

Further sections refer to the rights of a member to vote and his or her role at the AGM.

Members may consider the Management Committee and other position holders as separate/elite from the general membership but they all have one vote and hold those positions due to the commitment they have shown to the Shed to give up their personal time to help other members.

There are many ways a member can contribute to the spirit and culture of the Shed:

By making toys for charity; by working on



Shed projects, by offering to assist others; by contributing ideas; by becoming a Supervisor; by sharing knowledge; by assisting with fund raising; by attending workshops

regularly and by being a mate.

Our 2017 calendar was sent to members late in November. Please read it and be familiar with the Shed's activities on various dates that depend on volunteers, in addition to the regular workshops. For example, we hope to have four Bunnings' sausage sizzles next year so don't leave it to the same old volunteers. It is a great day to mix with the public and promote the Shed.



Sydney Heritage Fleet Tour

On Thursday the 15th of September, approximately 29 of our members/wives participated in the first ever outing in our 15 year history.

The excursion was organised through the SHF (Sydney Heritage Fleet) and our tour guide Jon Simpson provided a unique insight into the work that the SHF and PUG (Pyrmont, Ultimo, Glebe) Men's Shed do in restoring historic vessels that would otherwise, sadly, be lost.

We left the Shed at 8.00am on a Glenorie Coach and headed for the Australian National Maritime Museum at Darling Harbour, arriving at 9.30am. The weather was perfect; bright and sunny with a crisp sea breeze.

We met up with Jon Simpson from the SHF and walked around the foreshore to inspect the "James Craig", a restored 19th century 3-masted barque.



Originally built in England in 1874, she had a working life of around 50 years and, in that time, voyaged most of the oceans of the world, rounding Cape Horn twenty-three times.



It was in August 1879 on her fifth voyage through Australian waters that she finally put into an Australian port, namely Brisbane.

She ended her working life in the early 1930's after work in trans-Tasman trade, finally being abandoned in Recherche Bay, Tasmania. She lay there for about forty years. In 1973 she was patched sufficiently to be towed to Hobart. After further repairs she was towed into Sydney Harbour in January, 1981. She was recommissioned in 2001, after a magnificent job of restoration by volunteers over 28 years. Today, the fully restored vessel is a wonderful tribute to those connected to the project over the years.



Timbers used: Solomon Islands Beech for the decks; kwila and teak for the deckhouse; blackbutt rails; Douglas fir for masts and spars; Oregon and celery-top pine 'tween deck; Birdseye maple panelling and mahogany around doors and cabin deck. Other timbers used were; messmate, spotted gum, jarrah and ironbark.



After our tour we then boarded the “Harmon” an ex RAN workboat built in 1943 which took us to Rozelle Bay where we walked across a reserve to the



PUG Men's Shed which is situated in a unique setting, under the arches of

the light rail viaduct. The members of PUG welcomed



us with a generous morning tea of cakes, tea and coffee etc., which we were all well and truly ready for. We were given a brief history of the shed and the projects it is involved in, including its strong commitment to the SHF. This was followed by a tour of their workshop.

Back on board the Harmon we then went to the Fleet's Heritage Docks and Workshop

located in Rozelle where they repair, build and renovate ship models of all types. Currently; coastal steamer John Oxley (1927), ex-harbour ferry Kanangra (1912) and pleasure speedboat Kookaburra (1956). Vessels already restored include the 1902 flagship steam launch Lady Hopetoun; 1902 - tug Waratah; the 1903 schooner Boomerang and the 1908 Protex.

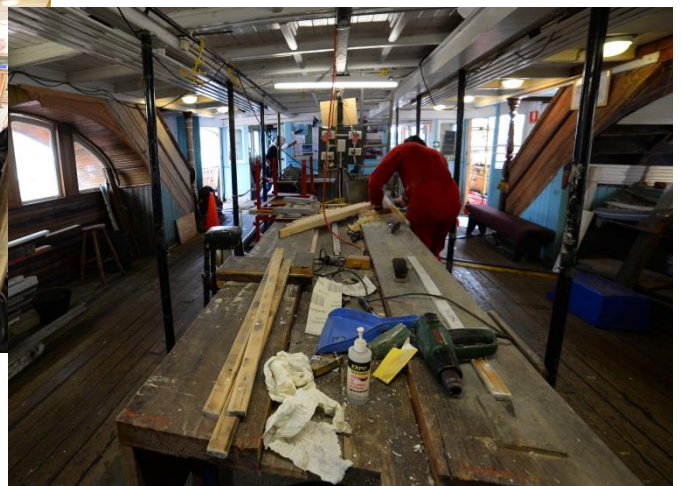


The Kanangra (taken out of service in 1988) is currently undergoing repair and restoration and we were allowed to board her and were given an informative audio visual presentation by Jon Simpson about



that particular project and PUG's heavy involvement in it. Before we left we were able to observe and chat with some of the

volunteers working on repairing timber work on the vessel.





We then went ashore into the Workshop to see where the major engineering construction is done and were given demonstrations of the heavy industrial equipment used.



The Harmon then returned us to Darling Harbour where we had a very pleasant and welcome lunch at YOTS restaurant and café, so ending a great day full of interest and enlightenment.

Then at 2.30pm we boarded the bus for the trip back to the Shed.

Our grateful “thank you” is extended to Jon Simpson of the SHF, members of PUG Men’s Shed, HWMS and everyone who contributed to us having such an informative and pleasant day.



Historical Footnote:

In 2005, on 15th April, Mick York, a Director of SHF, attended a members’ meeting of the Shed and treated us to a slide presentation, detailing the restoration of the James Craig from the early days in Hobart when it was just a rusting shell through to the progress achieved at her dock in Sydney up to the current date. Mick spoke of the connections that SHF members had with leaders of industry who were “encouraged” to make significant donations of items that were required for the restoration.

I did a video recording of Mick’s presentation and it makes fascinating watching, for anyone interested, in the work carried out on the James Craig.

Philip Hirshbein

The Shed, Working With NorthConnex

Part One

As part of International Tree Day, the NorthConnex project team visited West Pennant Hills Primary School in early August, to deliver a half day learning module to the school's *Green Team*, consisting of thirty five ten year olds.

The interactive learning module, developed by the project's communications, sustainability and safety teams, included an overview of the project, tunneling and the equipment used, PPE (Personal Protective equipment i.e. all of the safety gear that is required to be worn, including hard hats, gum boots, gloves, hearing protection, glasses, hi-vis clothing etc) in the tunnel, weed identification and a description and identification of hollow bearing trees in the school grounds.



Jaclyn Ford led the students into the nearby garden to get a first-hand look at the weeds and to describe the difference between these and the local native plants. The students were also shown examples of hollow bearing trees and had a discussion about how they are used by the local wildlife.

A nest box, built by the Hornsby Woodworking Men's Shed, was given to the school for installation on one of the trees in the school ground and all students were given a NorthConnex branded bag including a water bottle, pen, completion certificate and project collateral.

Part Two

In early August we were approached by another section of NorthConnex to quote on 12 Nest boxes.



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2/1A Sutton Road Thornleigh NSW 2120
Public Relations Manager: Philip Vennart
Phone: 0421 050 695

Invoice #: 0115
29 August 2016

SHIP TO:
PICK UP:

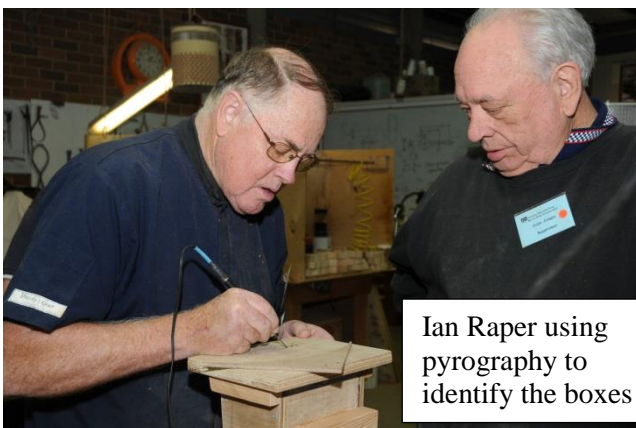
INVOICE TO:
NORTHCONNEX
As ordered by:
Colin Kennedy | Environmental
Consultants and Lawn Services Unit
Verisys
Level 4, 50 Concordia Avenue, West Pennant
Hills, NSW 2125 Australia

Quantity	Description	Unit Price	Total
3	Paint Boxes		
1	Rainbow Larkspur	\$75	\$225
1	Brushtail Phoebe	\$57	\$57
3	Sugar Glider	\$75	\$225
3	Micro Bats	\$62	\$186
1	Gang Gang Cockatoo	\$125	\$125
1	Laughing Kookaburra	\$75	\$75
TOTAL			\$893

OUR TERMS: Payment by EFT to Hornsby Woodworking Men's Shed Inc on delivery (Bank Westpac, Account: 8703164, 0883 020 300). Please specify as NorthConnex plus our invoice number.

Having produced a number previously, we are very experienced with the layout and cutting of the components to the 1.2m x 2.4m plywood sheets.

That quote was accepted, subject to a staggered delivery schedule. As usual, Tony Blair drew up the plans and cut the sides, bases and lids with a small team assisting with assembly and finishing through August. The following pictures tell the story.



Ian Raper using pyrography to identify the boxes



Tony Blair presenting Colm and Sarah of NorthConnex with the first of the finished boxes



The last of the boxes being picked up by NorthConnex on 30 August.

This is for a Gang Gang Cockatoo.

The Christmas Party 2016

Thanks to Bob and Ivan and their helpers the wide variety of food set the scene for a most enjoyable Christmas party. 85 people attended, including our friend from Hornsby Council, Robert Brown.

There was a really good vibe this year, with everyone mixing and having a jolly time.

The speeches were brief – summarising the past year, the efforts made by the Committee members, Supervisors, volunteers and others. Robert spoke about the uncertain status of the Council due to the proposed amalgamations that clouded a view of the future accommodation options for us.

The display of members' work and the toys to go to our charities were inspected and the quality and variety really impressed our visitors.

Les Sanford and his wife Robyn won the raffle – two enormous hampers.

The following pictures tell the story:





Our Centralised Dust Extraction System – From Concept To Reality – Part One

The first proposal for a system to improve the quality of the air in the Shed was put to the February 2015 Committee meeting by the President, Ian Raper.

In consideration that the total cost would be beyond the Shed's finances, a grant was considered the only viable option to fund a significant part of the project. Accordingly, following a letter, dated 20 June 2015, from Matt Kean, MP for Hornsby and Parliamentary Secretary for Communities, that he would try and assist our application for funds under the Community Building Partnership Grants 2015. That application was made on 3 August. On 2 November, I received a call from Matt's office, offering us \$18,000, subject to the Shed funding the balance. That offer was quickly accepted by the Committee. The \$18,000 was paid into our bank account on 4 April 2016.

Proposal To the February 2015 HWMS Committee
A Central Dust Extraction System

Before the Committee can put a proposal before its members I believe it must be able to address at least the following questions:

- Why do we need to move to a central system?
- If it's to save space, what space will be saved and what is to be the use/advantage of that space saved?
- What health benefits does it give over and above the existing system?
- What noise factors will it add or save?
- What is its affordability and adaptability (given that we are in leased premises)?
- If the system will not replace all the existing extractors how many of the old will remain?
- Will the central system achieve adequate dust and chip extraction if 80% of ports are open at the one time. I.E. what CFM is required to meet an acceptable result?
- Is the bin capacity adequate and what is our ability to extract common collected?
- What research has the Committee carried out in joinery shops and other sheds and what are the results of that research? (If visiting Shops and Sheds what are the questions we need answers to?)
 - In terms of grants, where does this purchase sit in our priorities?
 - The above list is a starter; if you feel I have missed any key issues please let me know so that I can add it prior to our meeting.

Ian Raper
February 2015

The process of reorganising the Shed, in November, to accommodate the dust collection unit is recorded in the following photos:



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