

THE CUTTING EDGE

JOURNAL OF HORNSBY WOODWORKING MEN'S SHED INCORPORATED

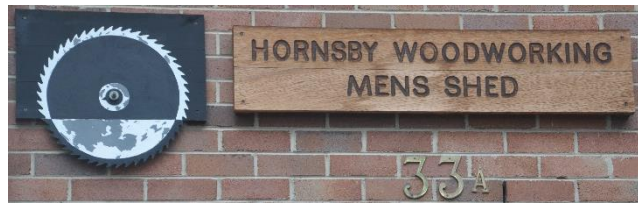
NO 214 FEBRUARY 2020

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PRESIDENTS REPORT

Hello fellow Shed Members,

I am standing for Kevin this month as he is gallivanting around Africa.

Toy making, one of the main charitable activities is gearing up for another year so if you wish to participate or have some bright ideas see Fred Blaauw for some guidance there.

Next weekend on the 23rd the Shed is running the sausage sandwich BBQ at Bunnings in Dural so, if you have not already put your name down to assist see David Tarran's list on the whiteboard. This is an important fundraiser for the shed and gives us some visibility in the community. The funds raised go to the running of the Shed buying consumables such as screws and nails, glue and abrasive papers to name but a few. Did you know that membership fees cover less than half of our annual operating costs? so fund raising activities, such as BBQs, are an essential component of our financial management.

Another Shed activity coming up on a Sunday morning eight of April is to sell the excess tools that we acquired from donations etc. These are quite heavy, and help will be needed to transport these to the market at North Rocks very early in the morning and help sell them. In previous markets most have been sold by about 11-12 am. If you are looking to adding to your tools, then you may get a bargain here before they go to market. See a Supervisor for advice as to what's available.

The Shed is still seeking anybody wishing to be a supervisor, both for general woodworking and for turning to come forward. If you are interested see one of the committee members.

We have been able to arrange for a new duty list of Supervisors for Saturdays so there will be no closures. The new list is displayed on the notice board and those involved will be emailed.

A big welcome to new members Sunil Vijay, Keiran Straub-Duddy, Aaron Robbins and Andrew Gough. I hope you enjoy your time making your projects. If in doubt of using equipment or where to find something just ask a supervisor.

The now the serious side of working in the Shed. Safety. Think safe, work safe and don't be negligent such as leaving machines running, timber lying around on the floor, doors and drawers of cupboards open.

David Boyd
Vice President

MONTHLY MEETING

FEBRUARY 33A Sefton Road Thornleigh

* Work in Shed will cease at 11.45am and the meeting may start slightly earlier than 12.00Noon

OPEN MEMBERS' MEETING Agenda

APOLOGIES

WELCOME TO VISITORS & NEW MEMBERS

SECRETARY'S REPORT & CORRESPONDENCE

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

TREASURER'S REPORT

WOODTURNER'S REPORT

TOY MAKER'S REPORT

EQUIPMENT REPORT

WELFARE REPORT

SHOW AND TELL

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Hornsby Woodworking Men's Shed acknowledge the support of the local state member for Hornsby, the Hon Matt Kean; the local state member for Ku-ring-gai, the Hon Alister Henskens; the local federal member for Berowra, the Hon Julian Leeser and the Hornsby Shire Council.

Hornsby Woodworking Men's Shed also acknowledge the support of the following organisations: the Hornsby RSL Club; Magpies Waitara; Westfield Hornsby; Bendigo Bank, Turramurra & Lindfield; Bunnings Dural; Bunnings Thornleigh; North Shore Timber; Orangelime Web Design; Coca Cola Amatil and Bakers Delight Hornsby.

Please support the organisations that supports HWMS.

GOINGS ON AT THE SHED

If anyone has any "creosote" in their possession, please get in touch with Alan Williams at the shed or call him on 9489 1852 Thanks.

NEW MEMBERS FOR THE MONTH OF JANUARY

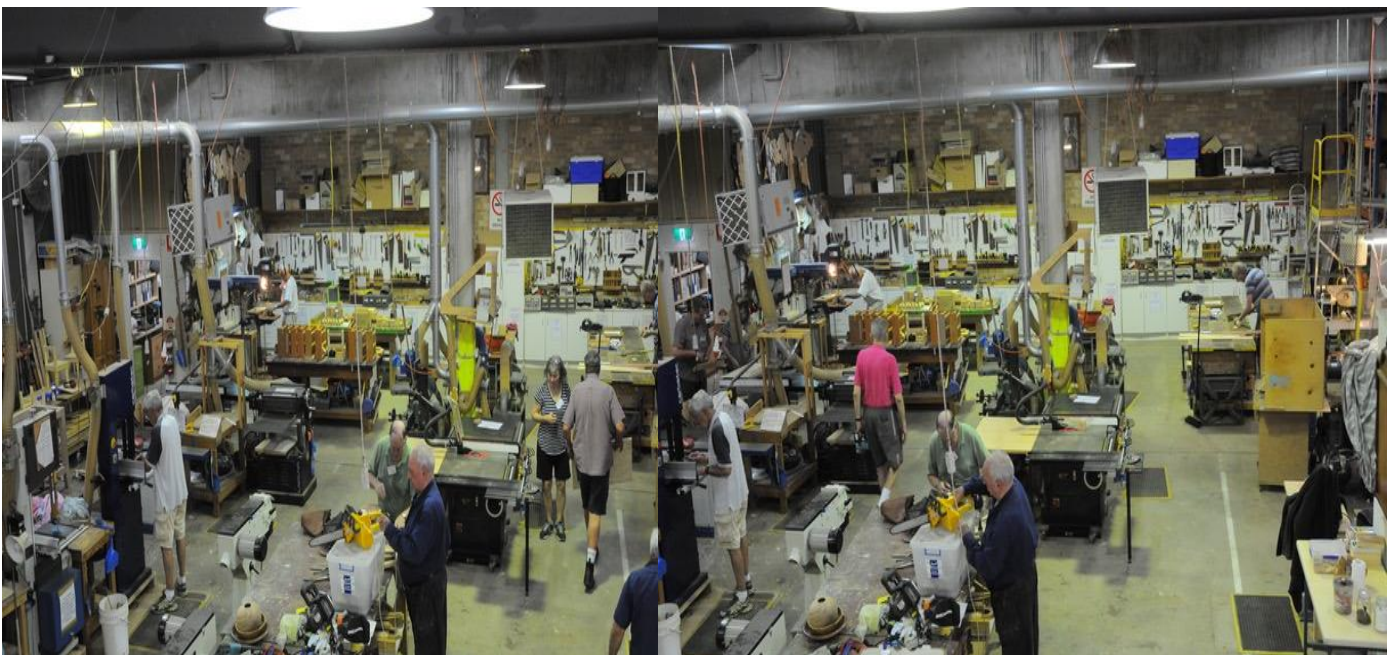
Sunil Vijay, Keiran Straub-Duddy, Aaron Robbins and Andrew Gough.
Say hi to them as you see them at the Shed and assist if required. Thanks.

A DAY AT THE SHED

A shed day is something one looks forward to with anticipation. Hours before, in one's mind, plan of action is formulated for the project in hand whether it is something personal, a Shed fund-raising activity or a toy for one of our charities. What stage the project is at, the next step to take, the materials to be used, how to go about each step, formulating the plan in your mind, hoping it will end successfully, the outcome can be seen in your mind's eye. **Alas.** Traps lay in wait for us. First, getting to the Shed and finding a car parking spot is not easy, once in the shed with obligatory good mornings to fellow shedders, the machinery is uncovered, and a spot to work on is found. The plan that was formulated in your mind hours before is acted upon with great purpose. Stage by stage you progress onward. Suddenly, **the bell is rung**, morning tea is upon you, so soon. It's a welcome break where you can chat with fellow shedders about all sort of topics; it's a company of rich and diverse ideas, ideas that are talked about with no criticism, that allows the individual to express his or her opinion without judgement. It makes the individual feel valued with a sense of belonging. This is a boost to our self- respect, to be heard, and listened to. That is what our club is all about, inclusion and relevance, because we all matter.

Morning tea is over, you go back to the project, you start fitting all the sections where they should go. Lo and behold, things don't fit as you imagined. Disaster has struck, what to do? Simple, you approach fellow member and ask for their opinion, it is given, you digest that opinion and act upon it. **That** is what our shed is all about, advice asked for and is given, **a win win** situation. **The bell is rung AGAIN**, lunch time, once again we sit around, chat, eat, and chat some more, perhaps of a holiday you are planning, issues you may have, like health, and heavens forbid partner angst. All these issues are beneficial to our wellbeing. With lunch dispensed with, back to our projects, we cut, saw, drill, hammer and paint with great purpose. Before you know it, **the bell is rung**, time to knock off "**damn it**" I was having such a great time. The shed is swept, machinery covered. But never mind, it's on again in a day or two. So, you see what great organisation we are. Great leadership, a great facility, great equipment, great camaraderie, a place to belong and feel a valued member of the shed.

BELOW ACTION SHOT OF OUR SHED



An Introduction to John Talbot

John has been a member of the Shed since October 2003. He has earned a reputation for being available to fix or improve all things electrical around our workshop. Life has not always been easy for John. What follows is a brief extract of his story. A more comprehensive account will appear in the next Cutting Edge magazine.

I was born in England in the very cold winter of (February) 1947. We had very few toys but lots of friends about us. There were no car rides to school – I rode a bicycle to school when I got older. My early years were spent in Leeds – (N. Yorkshire) and my teen years in Birmingham (Midlands).



My father was a mechanical engineer with a very inquisitive mind. He built and repaired valve radios and audio amplifiers, I loved “helping” him. He had a very organized workshop in the cellar of our house. All the screws and bolts were arranged and sorted into carefully labelled tins and jars. He kept a powerful magnet on his bench that I used loved to playing “fishing” with. I would line up a few opened containers and lower the magnet into each one in turn and see how many nails and screws I could pick up.

I built cubby houses in the trees in the front garden and used lots of nails and wood from the workshop. When autumn came my Mum insisted that I dismantle them as our visitors would think they were unsightly!

With the encouragement and help of my father I built crystal sets, simple valve radios and amplifiers. As a teenager I built transistor radios and amplifiers.

I was an average student academically and not well coordinated in sport. I just made it into the grammar school. There they played Rugby; I was short sighted so kept as far away from the ball as possible, for my own preservation!

I was not able to go to university, but I obtained an apprenticeship at a small industrial electronics and motor control company about 15 miles from home. I went to technical college and studied for a Higher National Diploma (HND) in Electrical Engineering. I lived in “digs” during the week and came home at weekends. My father helped me keep my old Austin car roadworthy. Clutch starts were common, especially in winter!

In 1969 my father was offered a position in Australia. I was still doing my HND. I stayed in England to complete my diploma and migrated to Australia about 18 months later as a “£10 Pom”. (I have been good value to Australia!!). The weather was bad throughout the voyage and it was still raining hard coming through Sydney Heads – just like England!

Family and Home Life (much more important than work!) I married my wife Sue in 1975 and we bought our home in Castle Hill for under \$40,000, where we still live and had 3 children.

Work in Australia: I went technical college (NSWIT) on a part time basis and completed my degree in 1975. I obtained a job with the Australian division of GEC Electrical Projects Division of England where I stayed for about 30 years. (I also worked for other companies for short periods of time).

The Hornsby Woodworking Men’s Shed: I came across the Shed during a Triton demonstration I saw at Bunnings and joined in 2003. I enjoy coming to the shed and fixing things – (“John this doesn’t work” and “please fix it now!” I have become used to hearing over the years). Seriously though, I find the friendship and chats during work and lunch very beneficial. I have suffered from depression for many years and have found the support and companionship the Shed gives to be very therapeutic, not only for me but others with similar conditions.

COLLECTING (WET) TIMBER FOR TURNING.....FEBRUARY 2020.

The recent Sunday storms brought down an 83 years old sizable Australian Red Cedar tree at Hornsby with a trunk about two and a half feet in diameter and say 11 feet long which was very suitable for recycling/planking. The larger branches were suitable for cutting into turning blanks and drying. Many of these branches over 12 inches in diameter were collected and already part processed.

Australian Red Cedar is somewhat scarce, and in thicknesses over 2 inches and say 10 inches in width, very scarce and becoming costly. Cedar turns well with a deep red often with a lustrous polished surface.

We know that wet and unseasoned wood is unsuitable, and unreliable so a 'process' is required for turning wood or blanks to reduce the initial moisture content down to about 10 -12% as quickly as possible and without major cracks.



In general, the process followed is to collect the timber as soon as possible after the fall and sawing the suitable branches to about one meter in length. The lengths can then be 'end sealed' at the freshly cut ends by painting with a flexible water-soluble compound. This compound slows down the drying from the ends of the branch and reduces the liability of cracking.

Wood this size can be stored and dried in this configuration, a better result is obtained by cutting lengthwise, through the 'central pith' or better, each side of the pith as this reduces further the likelihood of cracking. These semicircular lengths can be sealed and stored as above or further cut into cylinders the diameter of the wood either retaining the bark or cutting away the bark and much of the white sapwood giving, in this case giving a bowl blank approximately 12" dia. by 5" thick. This cylindrical 12" blank is covered with sealer, to hopefully prevent cracking, and stored until dry.





It should be noted that branch wood frequently will not have its pith in the centre of the branch. The more off-centre the pith the greater the tension or compression on the wood which more likely will cause cracking during drying.

Logs, split branches and blanks for use by craft turners is dried in the main by placing these in cool, ventilated room, cellar or cupboard. The 'Rule of Thumb' is about two years to dry each inch in thickness of the wood. As about 25-30% of the

wood's weight has to be removed allowance for condensation is necessary and the wood should be checked every month until dry with a moisture meter and/or weighing to a constant value for say 3 or 4 months.

It is possible to speed-up the wood drying process. Kilns are used commercially, but microwave ovens (only sometimes successfully?), soaking in a bath of methylated spirits of a week and then drying the spirit out of the wood are sometimes used by craft turners. more orthodox and frequently used process is to wet-turn the (cylindrical) blank ASAP after cutting, ruffing out the approximate shape leaving the wall and base at 1" or more thick and sealing and drying the item, thus turning dries quicker, mostly without cracking and the 1" plus thick walls allows the ovality of the item to be turned away giving a normal result.

The photos attached show this Cedar tree in its various process' stages mentioned above.

The logs shown are planned to be processed further in the next few weeks and stored until dry and then ready to turn.

