



Hornsby Woodworking Men's Shed

THE CUTTING EDGE

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OUR 2021 CHRISTMAS PARTY

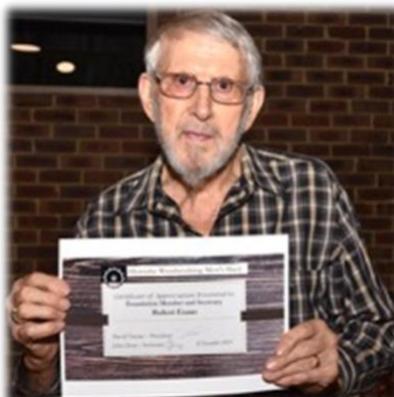
It was great to be finally getting together, after the restrictions of the past two years.

Thanks to the Committee, members did not have to go through all the preparations of previous years. No one missed moving the machinery, cleaning the Shed and planning the food for up to eighty people.

The Thornleigh Community Centre was booked for 8 December and caterers hired. We enjoyed delicious hot food, salads and desserts that were served to us as we lined up, table by table. At a subsidised \$15 per head, it was great value for the 64 people who attended.

A last-minute acceptance was recent ex HSC Councillor, Robert Browne who has long been an active supporter of the Shed. In his brief address, he offered to still “open some doors” for us, if required.

A highlight of the evening was the presentation of certificates to two Foundation members, Robert Evans and Philip Hirshbein and our two Nonagenarians, Jim Kelso and Joe Fletcher.



It was then discovered that John Edwards was also over 90 so a certificate has been awarded to him.



The following pictures capture the mood of the evening.

First and second raffle prize winners – Jane and Joyce.





Some feedback:

- ☺ I would like to thank all those involved in making Thursday's dinner a wonderful success. It appeared to be well accepted by all. On behalf of all who attended I would like to say Thank you.

Elwyn Muller

- ☺ Hi Phil,
Suzanne and I had a most enjoyable evening on Wednesday, the food was really delicious and oh so plentiful!
We had a gathering from all parts of Africa plus some entertaining folk from Peru at our table and what fun we had!
We did discuss that having "Christmas in July" as well would be a great idea and wondered how you'd feel about it?
Jokes aside it was a lovely evening, many thanks to you and the whole Committee.
Kind regards,
Steven and Suzanne Stanford

- ☺ Robert Evans was prepared to speak during his presentation but wasn't given the opportunity. He subsequently provided the following:

I also would like to thank Philip Hirschbein for the incredible amount of work he put into the foundation of the original "Hills District Triton User Group", which became our "Shed" Only Joyce, Philip's wife, and I, know how much Philip put into the formation of the Club and only because we were both out of work at the time were we able to put the time into the Club's inception.

In the January 2022 Shed newsletter it was announced:

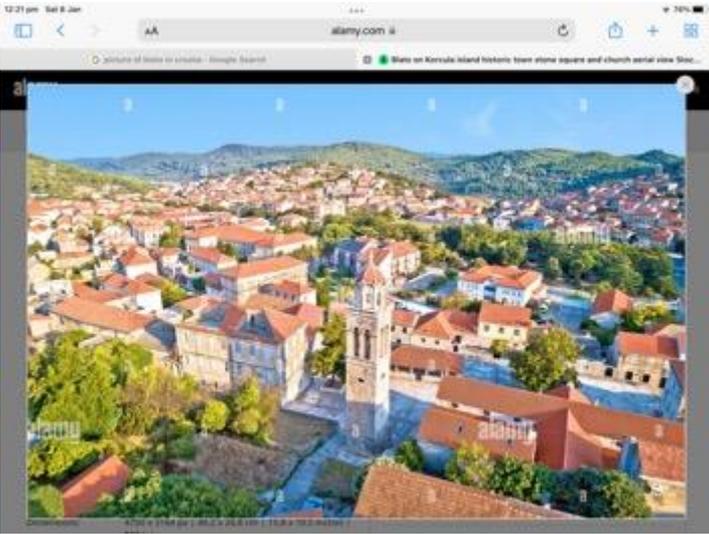
Christmas Party:

Due to the success of the Christmas Party at the Thornleigh Community Centre the 2022 Christmas Party will be held there again on Wednesday 16th November.

Ivan Bosnich – My Story

Travails.

I come from the town of Blato on the island of Korčula, on the Adriatic coast.



Korčula is a historic fortified town on the protected east coast of the island of Korčula, in Croatia, in the Adriatic. The island is 42 km long and about 8 km wide. There are seven towns situated along its length, some very charming villages with beautiful shingle beaches and crystal-clear water. I can recommend it as a great place to visit.

But I was born in Al Shat, Egypt, towards the end of Second World War. Why was I born in Egypt I hear you say? It was because the island of Korčula was about to be occupied by the German army. All women children and older folk were evacuated, including my mother who was carrying me. They were sent in small boats to Monte Gargano, Italy. Then in a British ship to a refugee camp near the banks of the Suez Canal, where I was born. By all accounts the camp was very well set up, with a school, field hospital, and a theatre, all in tents. Apparently, dust storms were frequent. When the war ended, all went back to their respective homes. I was about six months old when we returned to Korčula. There I grew up and went to school. Times were tough in many ways, but as children we accepted it, as, being the way things are. Shortages of food and clothing were common throughout Europe, but there were many things to do on the island, swimming, hunting with my uncle and, of course, playing with friends from dawn to dusk. Only stopping for something to eat. My first ice cream was at the age of about ten years old. I can still taste it, it was so good. I was on our school committee when the great man Tito (President of Yugoslavia) came to visit in 1957 and he actually spoke to me, asking what I wanted to be when I grew up. I told him I wanted to join a Men's Shed!

In 1956, my Dad decided to come to Australia due to economic situation in Europe. He mainly worked the land with my mother alongside him in the vineyards. It was all manual work, with a pick and a hoe-like tool. Hard work indeed!

My mother, my sister and I followed in 1958. We briefly lived on a sheep station near Bogan Gate where my father worked as a station hand. There I had great fun, there were bikes, tractors, "guns" of all things, they were everywhere. The nearest school was at Trundle, but, before I could start, my parents decided farm life was not for them, so we packed up and moved to Broken Hill where I began my schooling. I got a newspaper run in the afternoon, which included all pubs in west Broken Hill plus the hospital. The pubs were great. Broken Hill is a mining town, a town of hard working and hard drinking men so pubs were always packed. I had to squeeze through the smoked to sell the papers but the tips were great, especially on pay days. When I finished my schooling, I was offered a job in the office as a messenger boy. That consisted

of errands to the bank, various businesses, buying cigarettes for the workers, whatever task was needed they got me to run around, I loved it.

After two years, Dad and Mum decided Broken Hill was not for us, so we moved to Sydney where we stayed with friends in Mosman, just up from the Taronga Park Zoo, for about a year. We travelled to work by ferry to Circular Quay, with a short cut through the Zoo to the ferry wharf, all locals were allowed to do that. It was fun. Imagine that these days. From Circular Quay by train to Central station where the News Limited Office was located. We lived in Mosman for about a year until my parents bought a house in Chatswood. That became our long-term home.

When I told my employer I was leaving I was given a reference to go to News Ltd and seek a job. There, I also became a messenger or copy boy as we were called, this time for no other than Rupert Murdoch. I spent about six months, along with two other copy boys, being employed solely to attend to his personal needs. It was a very interesting time. He was a very nice boss to us.

Copy boys were usually employed until an apprenticeship became available, which occurred at the beginning of the year. I was indentured in the newspaper industry as a stereo typesetter apprentice, where a five-year course was required, four years at tech for one day a week with the last year full time on the job, including some night shifts. That trade is now extinct. We made printing plates for the presses, advertisements and type, all in lead. I spent my entire working life in the printing industry which was a great job but i had to re-train three times as newspaper printing evolved to new electronic methods. I worked for 25 years at News Limited and 25 years at Fairfax. That was the way things used to be, you started work in an industry and worked there until retirement. Maybe not very exciting but very stable and rewarding. The last ten years of my career, I spent as a trainer in the new printing plant, which was state of the art. It was built by Muller Martini, a Swiss-German company, in Chullora, near Bankstown, at a cost of \$350 million, a lot of money in the nineties. There I retired.

In 1969 Colleen and I were married. We have three children. One son in Queensland, one in USA and a daughter in Sydney.

When I retired, I joined the Hornsby Woodworking Men's Shed, thus achieving my ambition, as told to Tito all those years ago. I joined the Shed in September 2010, just before it moved from Headon Park to Sefton Road. The new premises were spacious in comparison. The Shed is a place where I like to spend one or two days a week, enjoying and developing my woodworking skills in the company of friends I have made with that common interest. The Shed has an array of very interesting and good-hearted people, who, generously, share their great woodworking skills.

I spent several years editing the Shed's monthly Cutting Edge newsletter, where I struggled to achieve quality formatting. Phil Newman has now taken over. He has the expertise and computer knowhow, which is reflected in the quality of our newsletter now. At the Shed I have made many things over the years, the best are, probably, a chess set I made for my son and a television cabinet for our lounge room. When completed, I found these things most rewarding.

I also enjoy boating, fishing and most things to do with outdoor activities.

I love sport. As a young chap, I swam and played water polo for North Sydney for many years, played football (soccer) in the Ku-Ring-Gai district and started coaching Mt Colah junior players when they were



the age group champions. I took an under fourteen rep side on a tour of New Zealand, but they stacked their side and flogged us. It's true New Zealanders will go to great lengths to beat any Australian side.

Later in life I got interested in Bonsai and joined a Bonsai study group. At the height of my passion, I had about 200 trees. As my wife and I started to travel, I employed a young lad to look after them, as they need specialist care. All went well for several years until one year we came back to find most of my Bonsai plants were dead. My Bonsai carer discovered girls and that was it. Great shame. To this day, I still have a few trees left.

I also enjoy boating, fishing, and all things to do with outdoor activities. My present boat is moored on the Hawkesbury, its name is UTOPIA



My Travels

The ship Roma, on which we sailed to Australia in 1958, took thirty days to sail from Genoa, Italy via Port Said through the Suez Canal, Aden in Colombo, Fremantle, Melbourne, finally Sydney. The ship docked in front of where the Sydney Opera House stands today. As a fourteen years old lad, the trip was amazing, I think that is where I got my travel bug.

The town of Blato is inland, with fertile lands nearby where vineyards and olive groves are abundant. It's situated in the middle of the island of Korčula, about four kilometres from the sea on both sides. Before COVID, my wife and I went there every other year, mostly toward end of summer when the heat is not as brutal.

My wife and I didn't start travelling till we were in our fifty's, we have seen a great deal of the world except Africa, which was going to happen, but COVID got in the way. We have seen most of Europe, my favourite place, apart from Croatia, is Portugal which is very similar to Croatia. The food and people are lovely.

We travelled several times to the USA, where our son lives and saw a great deal of that country. The Rocky Mountains are truly magnificent. We toured Nova Scotia and the west coast of Canada.

South America is special. We were based in Santiago, Chile. We have been there twice. We saw Machu Picchu in Peru; awesome Iguazu falls is spectacular. We went to Brazil, Argentina and Bolivia. La Paz is the capital with Spanish architecture, a place of 3,900 metres in altitude where most hotels had cocoa leaves to make tea, a supposed relief for altitude sickness, I loved it. The lakes district that borders Chile and Argentina is spectacular, with clear turquoise lakes and the Andes and volcanos in the background. South Patagonia is rugged, desolate, also awe inspiring, with wild rivers and glaciers. World renowned Torres de Paine has all a nature lover could need. The South American BBQs or Asado as they call them, are legendary where a whole or half a beast is rotated over an open fire, delicious. The thing that struck me most in South America was the poverty, in particular Peru and Bolivia, a truly sad indictment on the leaders of those countries.

Back in Australia

We are so fortunate to have the best waterway in the world, the lower part of the Hawkesbury, right on our doorstep, where you feel a million miles from the hubbub of city life. So much nature to be enjoyed, the rugged rock formations, beautiful bays with quaint beaches for swimming and fishing can be great "at times". There are some cafes dotted along the river. I find that spending couple of nights here in a boat is "tranquillity" at its best.

Ivan

Our 2021 Toy Donations

21/12/21 - Thanks again for all the amazing toys this year.

The toys have been going out to families this week and have been very well received. Thank you again for the ongoing support from the Shed, and I wanted to wish you and all the members a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Prue Ghali | Regional Services Coordinator, Family Preservation **Wesley Mission**
Do all the good you can because every life matters

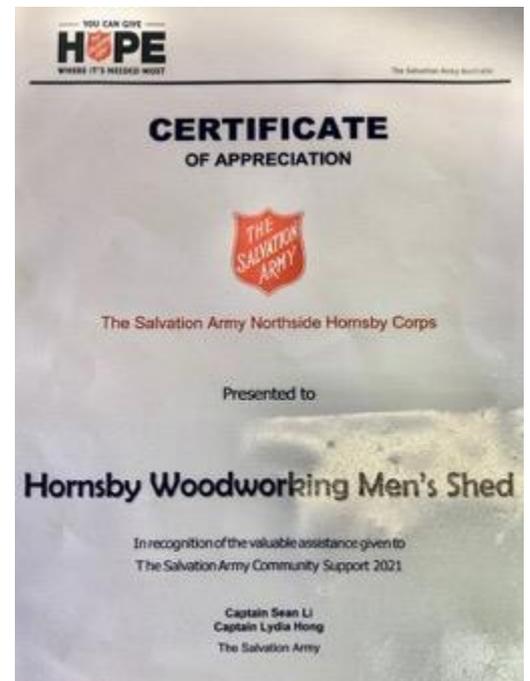


For many years now, Prue and other members of the Wesley Mission team have arrived at the Shed, ready to fill their vehicles with half the toys we produced for the year. They are always so appreciative and grateful, it's a great feeling that we, as a Shed, have contributed to a special child's Christmas.





Our other charity is the local branch of the Salvation Army. Captain Sean Li and his team arrived to pick up the balance of the toys on 14 December.



The Collector - Bo Lindstrom

Some would say I am a hoarder (e.g. my wife). I prefer to describe myself as a specialized collector.

My love of watches started when I received my first watch at the age of 15. Little did I know this would be the start of a lifelong passion to collect and appreciate watches of all shapes and sizes, including a wide range prices.

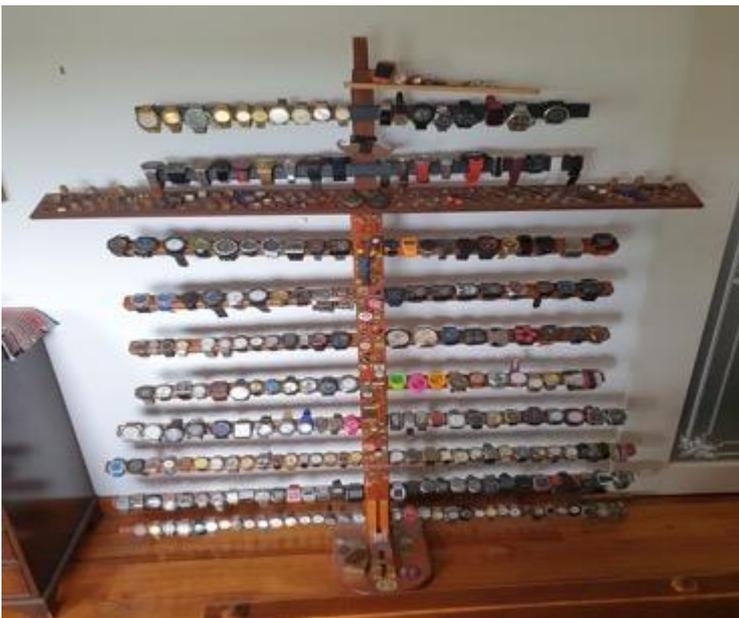
Some of my watches were free from various websites while only paying for shipping of \$3.00 - \$5.00.

Of course, my Bangkok “real” Rolex cost \$30.00 with “real” gold plate.

Just because I buy inexpensive watches does not mean I do not have some very special and expensive watches in my collection, such as Pulsar, Omega, Certina, Rolex and a Michael Hill Doxa.

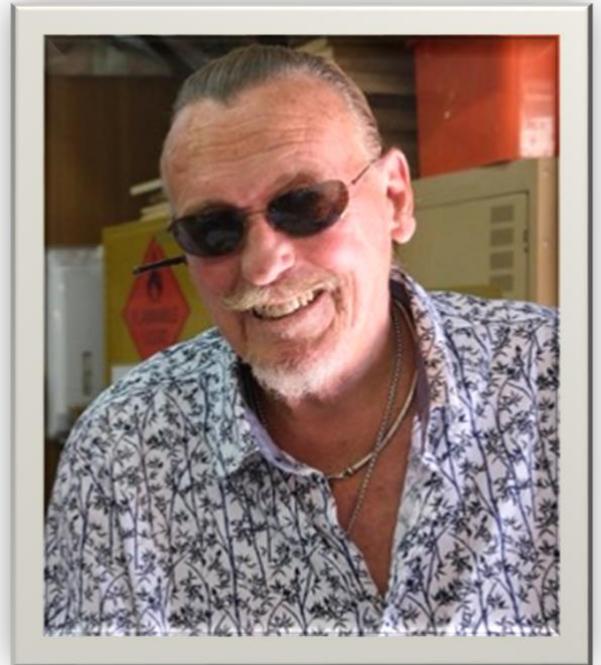
All my watches ended up in drawers around the house being un-appreciated until, one day, I decided to make a display stand at our Men’s Shed to show them off and to easily find one I like to wear for that day.

I also added a shelf for my cufflinks



At last count, I have approximately 300 watches.

Below, my Cufflinks.



Right:
 These are
 some of
 my first
 watches,
 purchased
 during the
 1950s.



Far right: These watches have sim cards.



Watches for fun. Casio watches with GPS, Tracker, Thermometer, Calculator, Camera.



Some are big some small, the Casio with music.
 One with a radio, the next is made of wood, and the last
 Has a 256 MB USB Drive!

Analog 24 hour and digital 24 hour



My Diving watches, the first orange one through to the Rolex, have been down to 80 m on my wrist.

Below: This is the first digital Pulsar watch sold in Sweden with the display using light diodes.



Above: **Samsung** Gear S2 & S3

My goal was to find a watch that has 2 digital time zone displays so I can see the time in Sweden and Australia at the same time, the Samsung Gear S3 can do that!

This love of collecting watches has been going on for over 67 years and continues to this day, so my wife still says I am a hoarder but you can call me a **Gadgex** man.

Bo Lindstrom

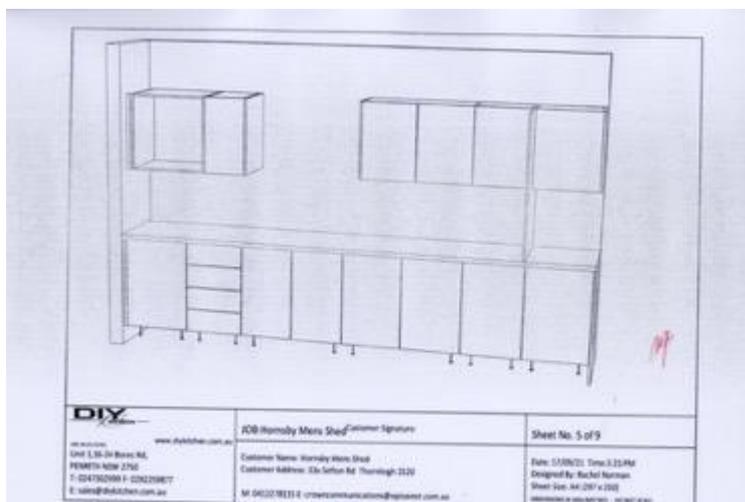
Our New Kitchen

Was completed just in time for the Shed's re-opening on 25 October.

Ian McKay tells the story:

List of action items, following the strip-out of the old kitchen

- ✘ Acid wash and paint the floor
- ✘ Purchase, create and install frame and sheet covering for air vents at the base of the wall up to the height of the existing tiles behind the hot water urn and over to the fire hose.
- ✘ Complete the tiling of the blank wall to the left and continue tiling across to existing tiles around the water urn.
- ✘ Move 15 amp power point.
- ✘ Rough-in plumbing
- ✘ Install base cabinets.
- ✘ Install overheads
- ✘ Finish electrical
- ✘ Finish plumbing and install/reinstall sinks and mixers
- ✘ Undercoat and paint above top cabinets and behind fridge position
- ✘ Install microwaves and fridge (rejuvenated by David Tarran)

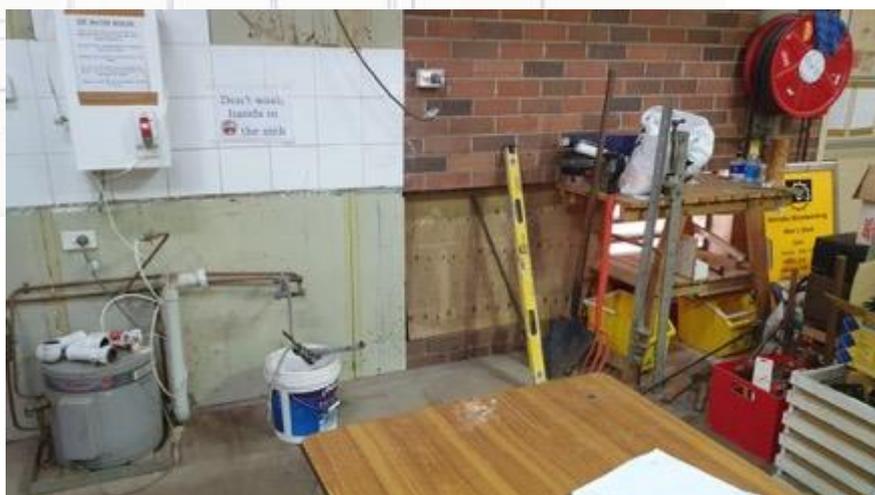


Well, it all started with Tracy Knights and Paul Crowe putting in many hours preparing the Stronger Communities Grant application. They submitted an Expression of Interest to get us on the shortlist. This was followed by the actual grant application, which was successful, resulting in the Shed receiving a grant of \$10,000. Enough to purchase a new kitchen and thicknesser.

David Boyd and Kevin Wallace ably assisted Ian McKay in demolishing the old kitchen.

Ivan Bosnich assisted with the painting and tiling while John Talbot Assisted with the final clean-up of the new kitchen and getting the rest of the Shed in order. When the money was received, Kevin Wallace and I were to slow in getting our hands down at a Committee meeting when David Tarran asked for volunteers.

I measured the proposed space, bearing in mind the immovables - fire hose, hot water system under and above the bench and drew up a plan which needed specific sizes to accommodate the above obstacles. That



immediately ruled out Bunnings with their pre-set sizes, so it was off to DIY Kitchen at Penrith who I had used on some other projects. They produced their final plan and cutting sheets along with a quote which was accepted and approved by the Committee along with finishes and colours. So off we went!

The COVID induced Shed close-down allowed us to trash the existing kitchen with myself, Kevin Wallace, David Boyd and for Kevin and I to acid wash and paint the floor before delivery.

D-day and a team of us Kevin Wallace, David Boyd, Ivan Bosnich, started the installation process. It was made very much easier, using 2 jigs constructed by David Boyd, one that allowed the top cabinets to be installed with greater ease and precision and a second one for the door handles that achieved the same thing. We were assisted by Bill Hart, doing the hard work.

The Electricals and Plumbing were done in 2 hits with the 15 amp switch for the band saw having to be relocated before we started and the lines and outlet for the second sink plumbed also before we started. Once the cabinets were in, to finish them off was then a relatively easy task. I have to say that both trades' professionalism standards were exemplary.

All the way through, the combined knowledge of everyone in the team made involvement in the exercise a pleasure. If one person didn't know something there was always someone who did. You can't beat that sort of resource!



I must confess a lapse in memory as to who did what on each specific day and who lent a hand, as you can image there was a bit going on.

Ian later added another cabinet near the ovens, see picture below.

Ian McKay



Multi-Function Work Benches

In a recent edition of the Shire Woodworking Club newsletter, I saw an article about the way that member Ray Tregoning had improved a standard workbench, using a basic system to fit accessories that provided several ways to clamp work during construction. I asked for more information because I have voiced the topic of applying modern bench accessories to our Shed.

Following is his response:

Hi Phil.

Below are some photos of the benches we have at the club.

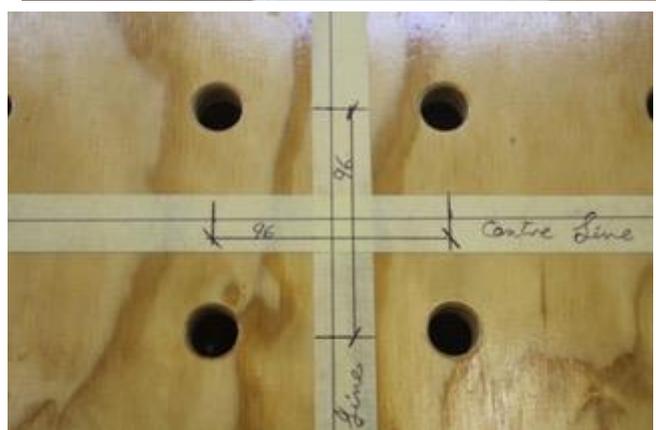
I used a chest of drawers with the end panels extended to suit our existing bench heights, with a clearance between the drawers and the top allowing access from front and back. The secret is in the top.

I used 19 mm ply from Bunnings 1200 x 600. The holes are 20 mm diameter @ 96 mm centres, set out from the centre of the sheet both ways.

A sheet of ply with the holes with bench risers may suit you. Carbatec has Rockler bench risers and non-skid bench cookies, page 387 in the 2018 product guide.

[Rockler Risers for Bench Cookies Plus - 4Pk | Carbatec](#)

Regards [Ray Tregoning](#) Shire Woodworking Club



Friends of Berowra Valley



By Karen Benhar.
(Karen has held the position of Shed Web Master for many years and a long-time Shed member).

Karen is the President and the Hon. Matt Kean MP is Patron

Friends of Berowra Valley is a community organisation dedicated to the protection and advocacy of our local bushland. Since being formed by Hornsby Shire Council in 1993, Friends was instrumental in Berowra Valley Regional Park being established as a National Park. However, the threats continue, with the latest mountain bike strategy produced by NSW Parks and Wildlife Service being another example of people not understanding that a National Park is a sanctuary for our unique Australian flora and fauna. Once habitat is destroyed then our fauna disappears forever.

So, at one level, Friends acts as a watch dog to try and stop inappropriate development, such as Peat Island and the Marymount Convent in Castle Hill or the newly released mountain bike strategy. At another level we run community events and walks - for the first half of next year we are planning a frog event and koala talk.

We are beginning to get involved in ecological restoration projects. Currently, we have one at Provest Creek in Hornsby Heights and are planning one at Stringybark Ridge in Pennant Hills. We also aim to encourage more fauna surveying in National Parks. How do you know what you've lost if you don't know what you had to begin with? Other projects for next year will be an educational project on how to be a good neighbour of the Park - don't dump your weeds in the bush, clear weeds and let the native plants flourish.

If you watched [Big Deal](#) currently on ABC iview you will see grassroot movements making an impact. It only takes a committed 25% of the community to achieve change and the other 75% will go with the flow. We want to be that 25%!



<https://www.friendsberowravalle.org.au/>

Vietnamese Shop Crafts - Brilliant Wooden Camera Models with Interchangeable Lenses

The Wooden Model Design store in Vietnam has crafted a beautiful wooden Olympus camera. Better yet, the camera accepts wooden interchangeable lenses. It is a replica of the Olympus OM-1 film camera, complete with operational dials and levers. It features intricate detail, and accents and logos appear to be applied using wood-burning techniques. The included detachable lens is a Zuiko 50mm F1.8. The total cost for the package is around \$35 USD.



The Wooden Model Design store has crafted many other wooden cameras, including a Sony A1 and FE 35mm F1.4 GM lens for a customer in the US, which you can see below. The A1 cost around \$70 USD after currency conversion, which seems a very fair price for a hand-crafted item like this.



*A Sony A1 wooden model with an FE 35mm F1.4 GM lens. The fine detail in the model can really be appreciated.
Credit: The Wooden Model Design*

The shop has also crafted a wooden Nikon F model, a vintage Argus C3 camera, an old Hasselblad 500C/M medium format camera and even a Sony FS7 Mark II cinematic camera. Head over to the Wooden Model Design Facebook page for more information and to see more photos of the fantastic models.

Published Dec 6, 2021 | [Jeremy Gray](#), DPReview

Time is limited

Time is fleeting. Where does it go?

When asked what's the biggest mistake we can make in life the Buddha replied, "*The biggest mistake is you think you have time.*" Time is free but it's priceless. You can't own it, but you can use it.

Get into woodworking Today.

A 'Bit' About Drill Presses

By Geoff Doube, 

A woodworking workshop is incomplete without some way of putting holes in wood. And while hand-held drills will make holes successfully, they are inaccurate and underpowered. The fundamental hole-making machine that you will find in every good workshop is the drill press.



The drill press

The drill press is a very simple machine. The workpiece is held on the table at a given angle to the cutting bit, then the bit is then lowered into the workpiece in a straight line, drilling accurate, clean holes. The simplicity of these machines is their great strength.

What model suits me?

Most woodworkers need a drill press in their workshop. Yet in the face of such a bewildering variety of machines - how to decide what model one to get? The best way to answer this question (for any machinery purchase, not just drill presses) is simply to be brutally honest about the kind of work you will be doing with it.



Meet the Woodworkers

Ray, is a model boat-builder. He makes exquisitely detailed scale models of sailing ships from a range of softer timber species.

The biggest piece of timber he ever needs to drill will fit quite happily into a briefcase and the largest bit he uses is 4 mm in diameter.

Rachael is a furniture maker who uses lots of live-edge hardwood slabs. She regularly uses big Forstner bits in hardwood table legs, skirts and stretchers. Her timber stash takes up half of her warehouse workshop.

Lastly, Roberto who is retired and makes a wide variety of projects in his converted garage, including jewellery boxes, toys, and the odd ukulele.

These three woodworkers all need to make holes in wood, but they each have very different machine requirements. To decide on the drill press they each, they should take the following factors into account:

Power

The more power the drill press's motor has, the bigger the bit it can drive and the tougher the timber it can handle. Rachael needs as much grunt as she can get! It takes a lot of torque to push a big bit through Aussie hardwoods so if her machine is underpowered, she is sure to become quickly frustrated.

Roberto does not regularly need as much power as Rachael, but he does occasionally use a 2" Forstner so he needs a motor capable of pushing it. However, Ray is not too concerned with sheer power. He has other priorities.

Capacity

The capacity of a drill press takes two basic measurements into account: swing and travel.

The swing or throat is defined as the distance from the centre of the chuck to the post, multiplied by 2. Another way to look at it is as the diameter of the largest disc you can drill into the centre of. The travel is defined simply as the maximum distance the quill can move - it is the deepest hole that can be drilled.

Usually, the more powerful a machine is, the larger its capacity. Ray doesn't need much of either, whereas both Roberto and Rachael need good swing to reach into the middle of larger projects. Roberto also needs a long travel as he occasionally drills deep holes.

Workshop size

Rachael has a big workshop and space for more machinery, so she's unconcerned with the overall size of her drill press.

However, Roberto is working in a much smaller space that has to accommodate cabinets, machines, benches and so on. So, while he needs a machine with enough capacity, he needs to be sure of the dimensions of the machine to make sure it safely fits. One option that Roberto might consider is making his drill press portable. A bench top machine could be put under the bench between uses. Or a floor standing machine could be mounted on castors and rolled out of the way. However, a bench top machine that is light enough to be moved may not have the capacity he needs, while a tall skinny machine on castors may lack stability.

Ray wants a small machine. His work is so small and the tolerances so fine that he likes to be close to it - particularly these days as his eyesight is not as good as it used to be. He also wants the machine to fit on his bench next to his main workspace, because he goes back and forth between the drill press and the workspace a lot.

Features

One of the most important considerations for Ray is lighting. Without adequate lighting he finds himself squinting at the work and missing the mark. With his old benchtop machine, he used to put an Anglepoise light on the bench behind it and try to aim that at the work - it was a real hassle. A drill press with a built-in light on a flexible light arm is on the top of his list.

Roberto finds himself changing bits and speeds often. He doesn't tend to drill the same hole over and over again because his projects are all one-offs rather than batch or mass-produced. As a result, he also finds himself needing to change bit speed often. For Roberto, opening the pulley cover, loosening the pulleys, shifting the belts, and then tensioning and putting it all back together again, every single time he changes the bit - well, it's a real pain when he just wants to get on and drill a couple of holes. And every time he does it, he needs to find the chuck key! He's after a machine that has a keyless chuck and easy, quick speed changes.

As for Rachael, bells and whistles are nice, but one of the things that would make her life easier is a big solid table so that her workpiece is well supported, and a nice wide base so the machine sits solidly on the ground when there are large, heavy pieces of timber on it.

Use and Safety

Even though our three characters have quite different requirements and therefore end up with different machines, they should all observe similar rules of operation and maintenance.

The drill press is often perceived as a relatively 'safe' machine, and it can be - as long as some basic rules are followed. The first, most obvious but least-followed rule, is to always read and understand the manual!

When the bit touches the workpiece, it attempts to spin the workpiece, especially bits with a large diameter, so it should be securely held to the table. Many woodworkers design a custom table arrangement with a fence or hold-downs to enable easy work-holding and accurate positioning.

Chips and debris should be cleaned up after each job, any table rust removed and the drive belts periodically checked for wear. The chuck should be cleaned and lubricated and tapers cleaned and re-seated every so often.

Even the most well-maintained and calibrated drill press is going to deliver poor results if a blunt or corroded or bent drill bit is carelessly used in the chuck. Looked-after drill bits are a pleasure to use while poorly looked-after bits will make the woodworker question whether there is anything good in the universe.

Whatever scale you work at, whether you want to drill teeny tiny holes in light strips or bore into ironbark with a big bit, the drill press will become an indispensable part of your workshop setup - you will wonder what you ever did without it!

How I Selected A Drill Press



After editing this article, I was persuaded that I really needed a drill press and that it would make an ideal Christmas present from my wife. Up until now, I had been using a handheld device which, despite being well designed, had its limitations for the type of work that I do.

I gave it a lot of thought and was forced to address some practical obstacles:

- ✘ I don't have a workshop or enough shed space to store (what turned out to be) such a large machine.
- ✘ I need a proper workbench to accommodate a table mounted drill together with, ideally, room for my 10" Dewalt compound mitre saw.
- ✘ The work bench had to be mobile in the carport so I could position it, after moving my car, near power and light.

Soon after Christmas, I decided to start my search at Bunnings. This was supported by a \$150 Bunnings' Christmas gift card, received from my son and the PowerPass discount of 5%. As you can see from the



picture, there was not a lot of choice; from left to right, Wild Boar, Ryobi and Ozito. The Wild Boar was a monster, weighing 40 kilos but was a standout for features and robust build, with a 750 watt motor. The box was so heavy that I had to get a Bunnings man to help me get it on the trolley. He also offered to come with me to load it into the car. My wife agreed to pay the \$300 balance of the \$469 list price.

It was only when I got it home and assembled it, that I fully appreciated all the features from the manual. I list them here so that readers can select those that will aid their choice of a drill.

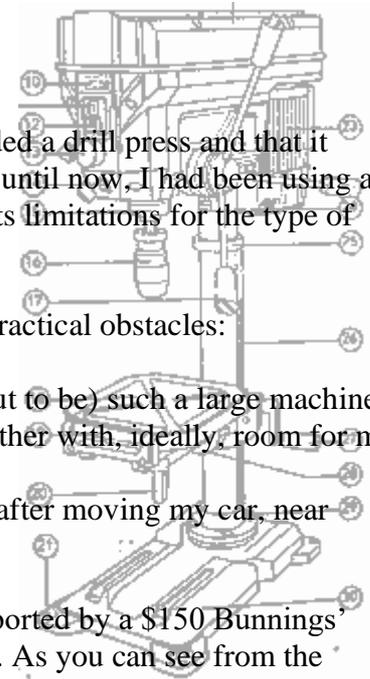
- ☺ Electronically selected drill speeds, 450 – 2,500 rpm
- ☺ Keyless chuck, capacity 1 – 16 mm
- ☺ Throat, 300 mm
- ☺ Drill depth, 80 mm
- ☺ Safety guard, drill won't operate if it's not in place
- ☺ Pull-out table support
- ☺ A built-in light that illuminates the work on the drill table.

The Workbench

In my wife's study is a large dark timber desk with a solid timber top. It came from the office of a company that I worked for in the 70s. In the lounge room, is a large lilac chair that used to be in the family room until we bought hi-tec leather recliners. In the spare bedroom, is a small desk that I restored for my daughter many years ago. Rather than dispose of the lilac chair, my wife came up with the following plan:

- 🔧 Dismantle the old desk and use the top for my workbench
- 🔧 Replace it with the restored pine desk
- 🔧 In the space left by that desk, move the lilac chair.

My original plan was for a smaller workbench, that's why the frame measures 650 x 1,000 mm but I was very happy to use the whole desktop, giving me a larger workspace of 840 x 1,370 mm.



After using it since early February, the features that really appeal to me are the ability of it to drill precise holes in metal and wood, with easy speed change via a lever and display while having full control over that process by holding the material in one hand and operating the drill feed with the other.



Philip
Philip Hirshbein



PS this is how the other rooms looked after we moved the furniture.

