

## President's Report



Welcome Woodies to the new year,

Thank you to Keith and the volunteers who assisted to celebrate Australia Day at the Hinterland Expo at Maleny Showground. It was wonderful to see so many people come together to share in the spirit of the day and to reminded us of the values of community, respect and belonging that make the Hinterland such a special place.

As we start the new year, we continue to make inroads into learning new skills such as telephone box refurbishing, CNC machining, wood turning etc.

We have a new initiative from the toy team. Indeed, it is a challenge. They want us to make over 600 toys this year and we want EVERY member to be part of that challenge. How good would it be to have 100% participation?? Talk to the toy team about your contribution.

Our 30<sup>th</sup> birthday is coming soon around March April, so think about how you would like to celebrate it.

For those who are ill, or just feeling unwell, we are thinking of your recovery and a return to the Sheds. See you soon

Stay safe.

Regards

Rick

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# Shed Managers' Report

A pretty good month overall, with only a couple of major issues, and the usual minor annoyances.

## Maintenance:

The significant items have been:

- Stop Buttons. **Who keeps twisting them off?** The Nova Drill (D1) was noted as having a broken stop button last month, and disappointingly is still awaiting the required part. D2 was also over-twisted, and had almost come off. Luckily not broken though, or we would be without a working drill. In both cases, there is really no reason to be pushing the Stop Button for normal operation, and in any event, it only requires a gentle turn. Please don't twist them off. As we have found with D1, they are difficult to replace.
- Table Saw TS1 suffered a bent blade, caused we think by someone winding the wrong handle on the saw while using the 45degree sled. (mind you, you would have to give the handle a real twist to actually bend the blade. You can't pretend you didn't notice that.). As with a couple of other incidents last year, we wouldn't mind if this was reported, it then becomes a learning opportunity. To just walk off and pretend it didn't happen doesn't aid anyone. And of course, leaves a very dangerous situation for the next poor user. In this case, it was luckily found by the next days Shed Captain when he was lubricating the saw tops.
- Jet Bandsaw B1 was adjusted to get the blade running in the bearing groove again.
- Harvey Bandsaw (B4) had a blade change after a breakage. Blade was not sharp anyway.
- Panel Saw (PS1). Finally a reminder that if you have small offcuts, and they go down the machine, it is your responsibility to retrieve them. This was this week's haul. No wonder the dust extraction wasn't working much.



## Safety/Security/Facilities

Couple of issues in this area.

- The 8inch jointer was left running unattended.
- The riving knife was removed from TS1, and left off. Its fine to remove it (for example when using sleds), but please remember to put it back on.

## Infrastructure and Club Projects

We are continuing to work slowly on the automatic dust gates. We now have 4 working, and another two partially installed. We are now getting bits together for a centralized power supply system for them, which will tidy things up a fair bit. A reminder to please not touch any of the settings on these. (that urge for people to see what the switches and dip switches do seems to have passed, thank goodness).

The Montville Phone Box project is up and running, and anyone interested in assisting is welcome to talk to Dave Pringle, who will be happy to point you in the relevant direction.

## *Kev Devlin and Ted White*



Toy Team Progress Thermometer

## Smile Table Course 3

The third Smile Table course completed at the end of 2024, and it has resulted in some stunning results. This was the first one where the complex side shapes were CNC cut, rather than the template method used in prior sessions. All participants came to the conclusion that it was easier, and produced a much more professional product. A selection of the results, along with the proud woodworkers are shown below.



Peter Rich, with his Silver Ash table.



Riccardo Pinese, with another Silver Ash table.



Ian McKeague with another Silver Ash table, and some other of this creations in the background.

And finally, the award for the longest effort (Angie was actually course 2), but also perhaps the most striking table. From Red Cedar (top) and Blue Gum (sides).

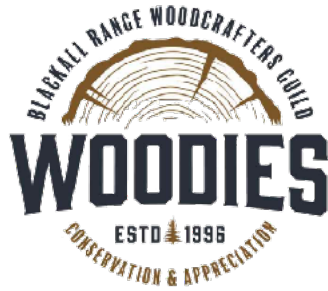


Angie Logan with her striking table.

I think we might give Smile Tables a bit of a break now. However any members wanting to make one on their own are welcome to use the Club plans, templates or CNC files.

**Kev Devlin, Course Instructor.**





Blackall Range Woodcrafters Guild Inc (“BRWG”) recently upgraded its solar power system, by replacing its ageing and unreliable Solar Inverter, and installing a 22kwh capacity solar storage battery.

At the invitation of Andrew Wallace our local Federal Member of Parliament to apply for a Government Grant under the Stronger Communities Programme Round 9, BRWG was successful in being awarded a grant which helped facilitate the solar upgrade project.

BRWG contributed to the shortfall in the cost of the project from its own funds.

BRWG acknowledges that this project was proudly funded by the Australian Government, and supported by Andrew Wallace MP.

This project allows BRWG to contribute to a vibrant and viable community and the improvement to the environment by reducing its reliance on fossil fuels. It will reduce BRWG’s power bill and consequently reduce greenhouse gas production. Environmental benefits of solar energy translate directly into improved community public health and well-being through the reduction of pollution and mitigating climate change.

The social benefits of our solar energy project extend far beyond its environmental advantages. The community at large is a beneficiary due to the large and ongoing amount of voluntary work and donations to community organizations, such as local councils, hospitals, schools, churches, Wishlist and Salvos to name a few.

Blackall Range Woodcrafters Guild Inc (“BRWG”) gratefully acknowledges that Sunshine Coast Council’s Councillor Winston Johnston recently approved a grant to carry out landscape renovations to the Guild’s premises which it leases from Montville Village Association at the Montville sportsground.

This project will allow BRWG to contribute to a vibrant and viable community asset by the improvement to the land and the environment.

*David Friend Grants Officer*

# Shed Captains Roster

## SHED CAPTAINS ROSTER FEBRUARY 2026

Monday		Tuesday		Wednesday		Thursday		Friday		Saturday	
2	Russell Middlecoat	3	Greg McCosker	4	AM Peter Rich PM Sherril Ward	5	Ray Bryant	6	Robert Forsyth	7	Ron Turner
9	Robert Forsyth	10	John Isles	11	AM John Muller PM Neil Stenhouse	12	Kev Devlin	13	John MacLaren	14	Jacqui Porteous
16	Gary Emmett	17	Les Howarth	18	AM Dave Banister PM Keith Muirhead	19	Don Lear	20	Dave Slatter	21	Graham Beaumont
23	Daryl Kajewski	24	Steve Squires	25	AM Julie Breen PM Keith Carter	26	Neil Clarke	27	Tim Killinc	28	Ian McKeague

## SHED CAPTAINS ROSTER MARCH 2026

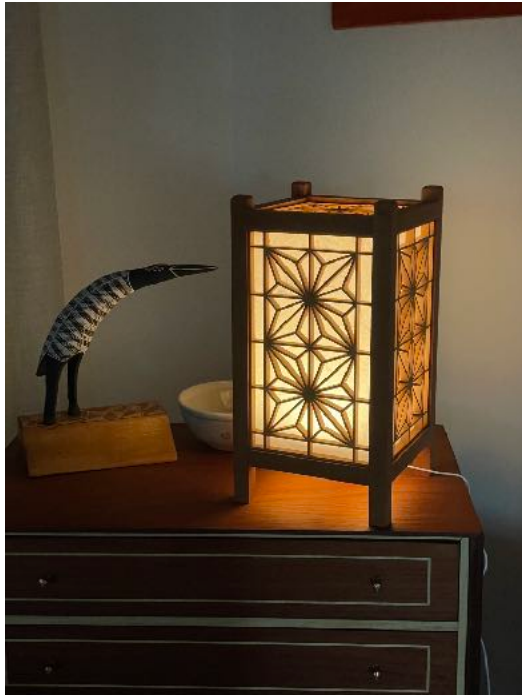
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30	Russell Middlecoat	31	Greg McCosker								

It is the duty Capt's responsibility to arrange a substitute if he/she cannot be captain on the printed roster sheet

SHED CAPTAINS ROSTER - Feb 2026 - Mar 2026.xls

Ron Turner

## Members' Work



One of two lamps Ian Mckeague made for his grandchildren

They are Bunya pine, red cedar and rice paper



I made these game racks for the grand kids who are mad game players and were trying to hold up to 13 cards in their hands  
Can also be used by those who may be loosing dexterity but still enjoy a game.

75 x 25 x 350 mm.

All cuts at 10 degrees. Top of teeth set at 17mm. The grooves are approx 8mm to allow for tiles and carf overlap

The front shelf works but will try 15deg next set to see if tiles hold more firmly.

Don Lear



This desk was completed by Jacqui Porteous

## Digby Milne - Old Member's Work



USA army vehicle



Harvester and John Deere tractor with trailer



Grader

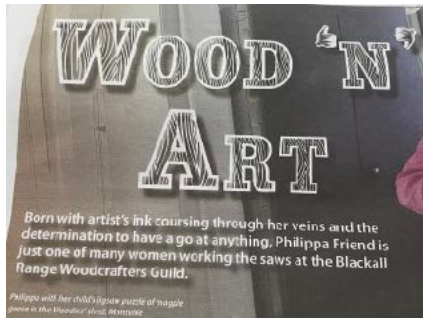


Under the low-loader trailer

Photos supplied by John Muller

## Article from the Hinterland Times

The Hinterland Times in December carried an article, written by Judy Fredriksen, about our member Philippa Friend. The Times, and Philippa, have given me permission to reproduce the article for our Newsletter. I could not reproduce the exact format of the Times article but, for those members interested, there is an original copy on the noticeboard in the shed. Lesley



No longer the exclusive domain of men, woodcrafting has become a popular pastime for women, with any misconceptions that a shed full of saws is no place for a woman being cast aside like sawdust onto the floor.

Although Philippa - originally from New Zealand - was a secondary school English teacher, she inherited an artistic flair from her father

“ My father was a dairy farmer and so I had a childhood on the farm. That was probably the beginning of all my creativity because my father built everything. He built their own house; he built the piggery ... He was also very artistic; he was an excellent painter and drawer. His mother had been an artist in London.”

Philippa recalls her father teaching her to draw pictures in the dirt, using just a stick, when she was only four years old. That lesson provided a formative framework that led Philippa to becoming a gifted artist and art teacher.

As an adult, Phillips moved to Canberra in 1987 and joined an art group. It was also in Canberra where she experienced the frustration of not being able to find a suitable Australian-made toy for her niece in England. This event ended up steering her towards woodcraft.

“I went to buy a jigsaw puzzle in a toy shop in Canberra and her mother said, ‘ a kangaroo would be lovely ... you know, with a joey.’

After scouring the shops in Canberra, the only one Philippa could find was not made in Australia; it was made in Israel!

“I thought, well, if someone else can make it, I can make it for goodness sake! So I investigated a bit further and found that I needed a scroll saw ... and that was basically it. A scroll saw. Sandpaper. Paints - I already had.”

The ideas - I already had them. So I got the scroll saw and made the jigsaw and sent it off to England. They were terribly pleased with it.”

That one homemade jigsaw puzzle eventually turned into hundreds, as word of Philippa's talent spread around the pre-schools of Canberra.

“

On moving to Forest Glen in 2004, she continued to make children's jigsaw puzzles for her grandchildren and their friends, as well as teaching art. Along the way, she learnt the technique of pyrography, which, she says, came naturally to her as an artist.

Then in 2013, through her art connections, she decided to expand her imaginative skills and join the Blackall Range Woodcrafters Guild (BRWG - fondly known as 'Woodies'). At that time, she was following in the wake of dozens of other women who had become members. At the inception of the Woodies in 1996, three women were inaugural members while around 170 have since joined.

Philippa instantly felt welcome and at home.

The first reaction to any new member, by the older members here, is to help and to direct them to where the wood is; how to choose the good piece of timber to do whatever you're doing; which machines are best; which member to go and see about something.

“I have never belonged to any group, at any stage of my life, which is so consistently friendly, helpful, constructive, and positive.”

Maybe that's because the BRWG is a guild, not a club. BRWG is modelled on the medieval trade guilds which focussed on teaching various building skills. Philippa is adamant it's not a men's shed.

“It doesn't have that sort of vibe at all.”

Under the tutelage of the Woodies, Philippa's woodworking skills continued to grow to include practical items like jewellery and document boxes and book shelves and this year, she decided to join the toy making team of six men and one woman. Every year for the past 30 years, and in collaboration with the Mapleton Craft Group, the Woodies trademark has been to make and donate thousands of toys to the Salvation Army at Christmas.

“One of my observations with the toys was that there seemed to be a lot of wheeled items. Now wheeled items generally end up being boys' toys. They are often little trucks and so on.”

This got Philippa thinking; she saw the need for a unisex toy, the ideal choice was a jigsaw puzzle, and she set to work!

“I've made 100 of them, and I've made them suitable for 2-4 year-olds ...they're little jigsaw - about 20 cms square and they feature mostly birds and animals of various sorts. And I tried hard to include native creatures as well.”

As Christmas approaches, around 350-400 wooden toys will be placed in hampers for needy children in Western Queensland. Among the will be the jigsaw puzzles, trucks, racing cars, trinket boxes, trains, cots and cradles (occupied by dolls, teddies, and bedding beautifully crafted by the Mapleton Craft Group).

So if the idea of becoming one of Santa's helpers appeals, Philippa has this to say of the Woodies:

“It's a very creative organisation, open to all... anybody, of any capability or age can make toys. It's a philanthropic, kind act; they're going to needy families.”

The Woodies always welcome new members.

# Timber bits from Bruce Chapman

Our stock of camphor laurel is very low. There is only a small amount in each marked bay.

## For Sale

A list of the timbers available in each bay.

- 1- Red Cedar
- 2- Red Cedar
- 3- Red Cedar
- 4- Silky Oak
- 5- Silky Oak
- 6- Silky Oak
- 7- Silky Oak
- 8-
- 9- Black wattle
- 10- Candle Nut
- 11- Tallowwood
- 12- Blue Gum
- 13- She Oak
- 14- Fiddlewood
- 15- Hoop Pine
- 16- Camphor Laurel
- 17- Camphor Laurel
- 18-Camphor Laurel
- 19- Camphor Laurel
- 20- Camphor Laurel
- 21- White Cedar ( one or two live edge boards)
- 22- Qld Maple
- 23- Qld Maple
- 24- Qld Maple
- 25- Grey Gum
- 26- Mixed timbers

## Drying Rack

**NOT AVAILABLE** for purchase. Timber here is stabilised after taken from kiln. Generally moved to sales area in one week. Please keep the front of this area clear. We need to access the timber here every Friday. Silky oak in rack will be available within a week.

**Who's Who 2025-2026**

Patrons - Andrew Powell MP, Andrew Wallace MP, Winston Johnston (Local Councillor)

President Rick VICKERS

Vice President Russ MIDDLECOAT

Secretary Clare CAPP

Treasurer Danny NOLAN

Asst Treasurer Russ MIDDLECOAT

Newsletter Editor Lesley MOTT

Website and Social Media Manager Tim KILINC

Publicity Officers

Recruitment Officers David SLATTER, Julie BREEN & Graham BEAUMONT

Training and Demonstration Officer Steve SQUIRES

Safety Officer Ted WHITE

Events Organiser Keith CARTER

Shed Managers Kevin DEVLIN & Ted WHITE

Providor Darryl KAJEWSKI

Purchasing Officer Brian HARRIS

Projects Officer Robert FORSYTH

Librarian Robert FORSYTH

Timber Management Bruce CHAPMAN

MVA Sportsground Committee Rep. Keith CARTER, Danny NOLAN,

Grants Officer David FRIEND

Shed Captains Roster Ron TURNER



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