

Port Stephens



Community
Woodworkers
Inc.

Woodnews

Official Newsletter of

PORT STEPHENS COMMUNITY WOODWORKERS INC.

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ABN 16 502 165 623 Website: <http://www.pswoodworkers.com.au>

CLUB OFFICE BEARERS 2022- 2023

WORKSHOP PHONE NUMBER 0478 935 847

Patron Frank Futurę

Executive

President Roger Delaney 0423 588 232
(president@pswoodworkers.com.au)

Vice President Ros Leitch 0423 645 612

Secretary Geoff McClelland
(secretary@pswoodworkers.com.au)

Treasurer Keith Bryars 0418 884 482

Workshop Mgr. Dave Bear 0434 267 101

Community Liaison/Publicity Officer
Vacant

(coordinator@pswoodworkers.com.au)

Elected Rep.1 Allen Beard 0424 230 628

Elected Rep 2 Charlie Kuhn 4982 2689

Assistant Workshop Managers:

Geoff McClelland 0428 104 242

Bob Parrish 0407 103 933

BBQ Supervisor Ken Richards 0475 248 306

Office Manager Vacant

Woodnews Editor Vacant

First Aid/Safety Charlie Kuhn 4982 2689

Public Officer Keith Bryars 0418 884 482

Welfare Officer Bob Grant 0407 402 253

Schools Coordinator Allen Beard 0424 230 628

Web Master John Foster 0423 721 875

(web@pswoodworkers.com.au)



Dates to Remember

Christmas Party	Thursday	14 th December	6.00 – 10.00pm
Bunnings BBQ	Saturday	16 th December	9.00 – 4.00pm
Next General Meeting	Tuesday	12 th December	1.00pm

WELFARE REPORT

By Bob Grant

John Foster A few weeks ago, John fractured his elbow while roller skating. Yes, that's right, while roller skating! It's not healing as quickly as expected and John cannot apply any pressure to the arm at the moment.

Keith Baily Keith had a stay in hospital, as he was struggling to breathe. It was thought at first to be a chest infection but was finally diagnosed as an allergy, amongst other things, to silky oak dust, which had affected his vocal chords. He's improving and back at the workshop but still has a way to go.

Graeme Sosso Graeme is not well. He was in bed when I rang at 7.30 p.m. yesterday and I spoke to Vera. His scheduled last treatment did not go ahead because the specialist thought he was not well enough to receive it. They told him to home and hope for the best as there was nothing more that they could do. He has lost a lot of weight and it is unlikely that he will ever be able to visit the Club in the future. He is still on painkillers but no other medication is planned. We will keep you in our thoughts and prayers Graeme.

Bob Grant. Bob's foot ulcers have healed completely. He still receives treatment from the High Rick Foot Clinic in Newcastle but that is only precautionary. No further problems expected.

Rod Wither Rod's recovery from his Knee replacement operation has not gone well. He has limited movement and needs to have further x rays before seeing the surgeon on Thursday week. Not the news we were hoping for Rod and we wish it all turns out well in the end

Chris Sturt. Chris is still having problems with his knee. Although not in any pain it doesn't feel right. He goes for a walk every day to exercise the knee but it still feels strange. He is due to visit the surgeon again in February. We hope everything works out fine for you Chris.

Stewart Upton I spoke to Stuart and he tells me all is WELL in the Upton household. Glad to hear that, Stewart. Keep up the good work.

Victor Loyola Victor recently spent some time in hospital after suffering from the bad effects of Covid. He is now home but his recovery is slow. We all wish you well Victor.

SHOW & TELL

- Jeff Leahy made this angled box with dove tail joints at an angle. He did a trial to get the angles correct, then the final piece with the dovetails. Nice work, Jeff.



- Claudio Sandoval made these beautiful goblets as a single piece. He also did a trial run to perfect the double helix first. They were a present for his wife, Lilly, on their 50th anniversary. Note that the twists oppose each other. Very clever! Great work, Claudio and what a nice touch for a special occasion.



Claudio also made this piece with curved lid and base all turned on the lathe. Nice work again.

- **Vince Rush** made this magnificent piece for an entry into the Sculptural Category of the Dungog Arts Society 2023 Art Show.



The piece is called HOPE RISING and was made for made of Jacaranda, Red Cedar and Walnut.

The leaves/flames were carved and pierced

Vince was also invited again to display his works in the Artisan Collective at the Nelson Bay Marina – well worth a visit.

TID BITS FROM THE SHED

- **Secretary.** Geoff McLelland put his hand up for the role of secretary and the Exec was pleased to appoint him. Thank you Geoff. It's worth pointing out, again, that, by law, the club cannot continue without a President, Treasurer and Secretary

- **Soldiers Point School.** 65 kits were provided and there were 4 sessions from 1.00am till 3.00pm. The school



provided an amazing lunch of sandwiches and sliders and then an afternoon tea of fruit, cheese and biscuits and cake! It was a very enjoyable and worthwhile and enjoyable day for the six of us, the kids and the teachers.

There was a panic before leaving as it was discovered that the BBQ kits would not fit together properly, so it was all hands on deck to make adjustments. The parents pay for these kits and they need to be of an acceptable standard.

We're looking at ways to improve quality and involve more people, so expect a tap on the shoulder!!!!

- **Dunny.** Greg Cumberland has painted our unisex toilet after a "suggestion" by one of our lady members, who obviously have a different perspective of the room from their male colleagues. Greg took all the fitting off (no short cuts!) and did a great job. Thanks Greg.
- **Christmas Party.** The Christmas party invitations have gone out by email and snail mail, so put the date and time, Thursday 14th December, 6.00pm, in your diaries and get those acceptance in.
- **Club Member of the Year.** We present the Club Member of the Year Award at the Christmas party, so get your nominations in. Nomination forms are on the notice board. You can put it in an envelope in the fees box or email our secretary Geoff McClelland at geoffmac1@westnet.com.au. Make your vote count, as they say.
- **Constitution.** NSW Fair Trading have issued a new model constitution for organisations such as ours. This may not be your favourite topic but it needs to be discussed before we put it to a vote as a special resolution after the next meeting, so please have a look. The main changes are listed in the minutes of the November general meeting.
- **Tormek Demo.** Jeff Leahy ran a demo on sharpening plane and flat chisel blades, using our jigs, last Tuesday morning. It was every helpful and informative. Thanks Jeff. He's happy to show other members who were not able to attend.

PROFILES

Allen Beard



I was born in Pontypridd, Wales and at that time the town was dominated by the coal mines and steel works. My parents moved, in small steps, to Pembroke in West Wales which was about as isolated as you could get in the UK and with few job opportunities.

So, at 17, I left school and went to Tipton in the West Midlands to do an apprenticeship as a toolmaker with the GKN group. They sent me to technical college, one day a week, and after three years I passed the exams to get me into university. I went to Swansea, because it was only 60 miles from Pembroke, and did Production Engineering.

Afterwards I spent two years working for GKN on tooling used to manufacture nuts and bolt.

I heard about a vacancy at GKN Tools, Malta for a Production Manager so I applied and got the job. There they made carbide tooling which in turn was used to make screws and nails. Most of this tooling was sent to the UK but some went to Italy and Australia.

After two years my visa expired so we packed the car up and drove back to the UK via Sicily, Italy, and France. By now our daughter was two years old and Nadia was pregnant with our son.

I went back to the Midlands to work, for GKN Kings Norton, as Engineering Manager looking after the Toolroom, Maintenance Dept. and the Engineering Dept. The company manufactured Plastic Injection Mouldings and Pressure Die Castings.

After a few years I saw a job advertised with the Vickers Group based in Southampton. This division had designed the World War Two Spitfire and they were working on engineering projects in various parts of the world. I joined them as a Senior Engineer. I did short term jobs in Qatar and Mexico before going to Pennsylvania to work with a company who were able to produce steel in a vacuum, which helps to increase the tensile strength of parts made from it. The steel was used to manufacture an anchor for a North Sea oil rig. Both our children were celebrities at the local primary school, because of their accent.

After two years the job in the USA was completed and I returned to the UK to work at the Atomic Weapons Research Establishment in Aldermaston. There I was involved with recommending the equipment they would use in the manufacture of components for the latest warhead and then carry out preproduction trials. The new factory was designed to withstand the impact of a Jumbo jet landing on it, which I thought was odd.....then 9/11 happened! If you go to Los Alamos in New Mexico you'll find an identical building.

With the job at AWRE nearing completion it was also a time when the electronics industry was taking off in the UK and I saw a job advertised with Vero Electronics who made the worlds first printed circuit board. They offered me a job as Manufacturing Manager where we made backplanes, populated them and assembled them into a racking system. This was all aimed at the fledgling mobile phone market and we shipped this equipment to many companies around the world including Telstra. While I was at Vero I spent some time helping to start up a similar factory in China and in Cork, Ireland.

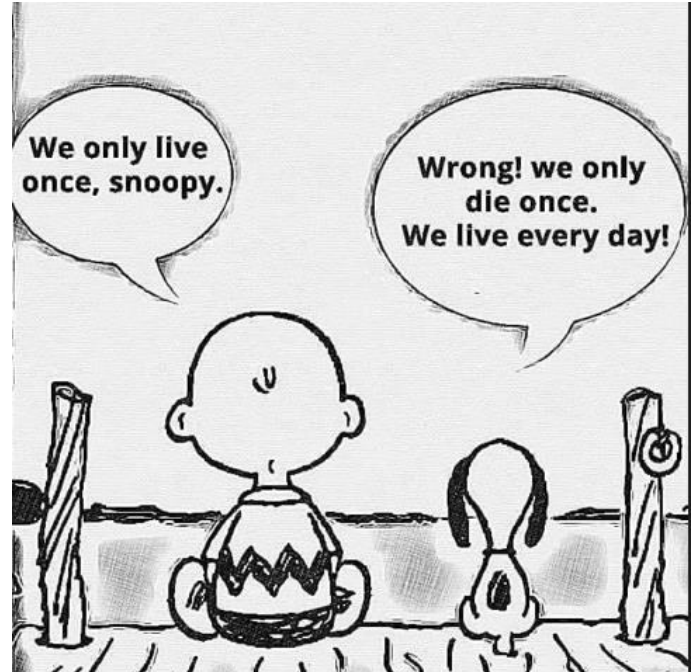
I had spent four or five months travelling back and fore to Cork when I saw a job advertised with Albright Solenoid Switches. They had two factories, one in London and the other near Basingstoke. I was offered the job to run the factory in Basingstoke where we employed between 400 and 450 people, depending on how busy we were. Albright were the largest manufacturer of solenoid switches in the world.

Around about this time both our children had finished university and had spent twelve months working their way around Australia and both decided that Australia was a better place to be, so Julia left for Australia and David followed her a year later. Then grandchildren started to appear and Nadia said to me, "If we don't go to Australia then we will never know our grandchildren". So, we decided to pack in work and emigrate to Australia.

I told Albright that I intended to leave for Australia and they said, "as Shanghai is half way to Australia would I call in and set up a factory to make solenoid switches". I thought I would give it a go, so Nadia and I got Business Visas, which only lasted 90 days. The Chinese Embassy wouldn't let us have Working Visas. After 90 days I had placed orders with Chinese suppliers for all the equipment that we needed and we left for Australia. The plan was that we would get another visa, in Australia, and go back but after getting off the plane I had a bag of fish and chips and a cup of coffee and vowed never to go back. What a good decision that was! We had planned on living in Caloundra but discovered Nelson Bay and stayed. Another good decision!

Editors Note: Great story Allen, you've sure packed a lot in. Have to tap you for a Welsh joke or two!

Jokes of the Month



Computer Problems

I was having trouble with my computer so I called my 13 year-old son to help me.

He clicked a couple of buttons and fixed it. As he was walking back to his room I asked him what the problem was.

He said, "It was an 'ID ten T' issue". Not wanting to sound stupid but curious in case I had the same problem again, I asked him what an ID ten T was.

"Write it down", he said, so I did.

ID10T.....he never was my favourite child anyway.

Peanuts

An old lady catches the local bus each day and always speaks to the driver and offers him peanuts, which he happily munches on. Every five minutes she offers him more peanuts.

After a while he asks "Why don't you eat them yourself?"

"Oh", she says, "I can't chew, look I have no teeth".

So the driver asks, Well, why do you buy them?"

"Well", says the lady, "I just love to suck the chocolate off around them".

Long Life

Everyone asked a 100-year-old man for his health secrets:

The old man said: I'll tell you a secret.

I've been married for 75 years.

I promised my wife when we got married that when two people quarrel, the loser has to walk for 5kms.

I've been walking 5kms every day for 75 years!

Everyone asked again: But how come your wife's very healthy as well?

The old man answered: I'll tell you another secret.

She'd been following me to make sure I really finish the 5kms!