

# SHED SHAVINGS

The Newsletter of the

## Laurieton Men's Shed



No 5. April 2011

### Greeting Shedders

Welcome to the April edition of Shed Shavings. This edition is a short one, as the scribe's been away for a short (wet & windy) break up north.

### In this Issue:

- ▶ **The March Meeting at LUSC** – fine woodworking display and scroll saw demonstration; 'Intarsia'.
- ▶ **Out and About** – Shed day trip: the National Motorcycle Museum and Sugar Creek Toymakers.
- ▶ **At the April Meeting** – a Show of DVDs from New Zealand Travels: Matakohe ancient kauri timber and kauri museum, the Wiatomo glow worm caves, and the Bay of Islands.
- ▶ **Any Other Business** – contacts, notes, ...

### The March Meeting

**Shirts and Caps** – The shirts and caps ordered at the February meeting have arrived and are available for collection at the monthly meetings.

**Membership–O–meter** ① ⑤ ⑤

### Out and About

#### Shed Day Trip to the National Motorcycle Museum and the Sugar Creek Toymakers

On Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> April, an intrepid bunch of shedders set off on our first day trip organised by Milton Job, our 'shed travel agent' designate. Although we couldn't fill a mini-bus as we had hoped, we did fill three vehicles and a great day was had by all. It's hoped this trip will be the first of many more—in fact some of us are going down again next week to collect some (more!) surplus timber donated to the shed by the Sugar Creek toymakers.

### Fine Woodworking at the March Meeting

Following up on their earlier 'show and tell' of fine woodworking projects, several members of the shed—who are also members of the Hasting Woodworker's Guild—put on another display of wood crafts and gave demonstrations on the use of the scroll saw. So the Shed's thanks to: Graeme Ditchburn, Bill Hancock, David Baker, Bill Saunders and Geoff Sainsbury.

### CORRECTION – 'INTARSIA' ain't 'Intaglio'

Previous editions of this newsletter have referred to this technique as "intaglio" – but the correct term is Intarsia. From Wikipedia: "Intarsia is a woodworking technique that uses varied shapes, sizes, and species of wood fitted together to create a mosaic-like picture with an illusion of depth. Intarsia is created through the selection of different types of wood, using their natural grain pattern and colour (but also stains and dyes) to create variations in the pattern. After selecting the specific woods to be used within the pattern, each piece is then individually cut, shaped, and finished. Sometimes areas of the pattern are raised to create more depth. Once the individual pieces are complete, they are fitted together like a jig-saw puzzle and glued to wood backing which is sometimes cut to the outline shape of the image."



## The National Motorcycle Museum

The National Motorcycle Museum was started in Canberra in 1990 by Brian and Margaret Kelleher who, by then, had been in the motorcycle retail industry for 18 years. Brian had been collecting motorcycles before starting the motorcycle business and they continued storing motorcycles and memorabilia with the dream of one day opening a museum.



Motorcycles formed a very important part of Australia's transport history, as they provided a cheap method of motor transport; many of Australia's 60 plus age group's first motor vehicle was a motorcycle. In 1988, the Kellehers read (in a government Bureau of Statistics report) that many of our old motorcycles were leaving the country for the USA, Japan and England. They believed that, unless something was done, more of Australia's motoring heritage would be lost overseas. This was the trigger to start the museum to house their collection as well as offering a home to motorcycles that might be gathering dust sitting in peoples' sheds. After much searching for government assistance, with nothing forthcoming, they decided to go it alone and set up the National Motorcycle Museum of Australia.



What any self-respecting Men's Shed should look like!



After operating in Canberra for approximately ten years the Kellehers sold the motorcycle business and moved to the Mid North Coast of NSW. Here they built a purpose-built complex to house over 700 motorcycles (794 at the time of our visit), a large collection of motorcycle memorabilia, and an extensive motorcycle orientated gift shop. Many of the motorcycles are on loan to the museum for display, but the majority are owned by the Kelleher family.

There's an excellent range of machines from the early 1900's to some interesting later bikes. You need at couple of hours at least to have a good look around, and true 'greasers' will need a lot longer.

Anyone interested in loaning machines or memorabilia should contact the museum on 6554 1333.

### Contact Details:

The National Motorcycle Museum  
33 Clarkson St, Nabadac NSW 2312

'Australia's largest collection of vintage, veteran and classic motorcycles.'

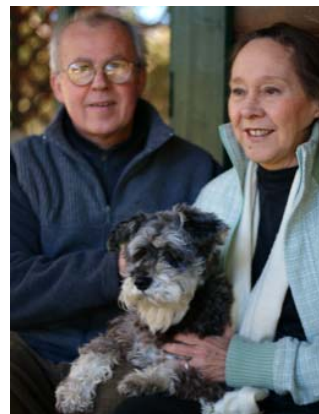
Open every day (except Christmas Day) from 9am to 4pm (last entry 3.30pm).

Internet – <http://www.nationalmotorcyclemuseum.com.au>



## The Sugarcreek Toymakers

Luckily, we heard about this well-established 'cottage industry' revival toy-making factory just as it is in the throws of winding down as the owners and toy makers (Jan and Friedel Warmers) look forward to their retirement after many years of operation. We arranged a special visit to the workshop and showroom just weeks before the building (a quaint log cabin style) is due to be demolished. Friedel, a very hospitable and charming bloke, gave us an interesting guided tour and explained the process of turning and finishing a turned wooden doll.



The Sugarcreek workshop is situated in the Great Lakes Shire of NSW, nestled beside a giant old Tallowood tree near the village of Bungwahl, just half a kilometre off the shores of Smiths Lake. Over the years, the Sugarcreek Toymaker's name has become synonymous with quality wooden toys, particularly their uniquely designed and hand painted traditional wooden dolls which are widely sought by collectors and, judging by their superb quality and finish, are destined to become family heirlooms. The dolls are turned from beech (but many timbers have been used over the years) then painstakingly hand painted and finished in a hardwearing clear gloss coat.



*Examples of Jan and Friedel's work*



## And Some History

*An early German 5½" wooden Fatschenkinder (devotional image)*



The 'Poupard' (an old French word describing a popular doll, without limbs, and naively painted) is the French name for 'swaddling clothed doll', a small carved wooden doll made throughout Europe from the late 17thC. Poupards are a very old form of rural-made doll that could be shaped using simple machinery, traditionally turned in non-jointed forms and painted to represent a baby in swaddling clothes. The head may have either carved or painted features. By the mid-18thC, German craftsmen had organized into town guilds to distribute dolls throughout Europe and America. The dolls (a 'penny doll' or 'the doll of poor') were intended as simple, safe toys for very young children because they had no moving parts or clothing that a baby could choke on or swallow. The ancient Egyptians made similar dolls which often had inscriptions on them to keep the baby from harm. The quality of these popular dolls declined rapidly as attempts were made to mass-produce them, and their widespread popularity as toys diminished.



*An 18th century German doll for a young child*

## Contact Details:

**Sugar Creek Toymakers** Sugar Creek Rd. Bungwahl NSW 2423 (02 4997 6142)  
<http://sugarcreek.com.au> e-mail: [info@sugarcreek.com.au](mailto:info@sugarcreek.com.au)

## At the April Meeting

### A Show of DVDs from New Zealand Travels

**The Ancient Kauri Kingdom** – The ancient native Swamp Kauri is the oldest Kauri in New Zealand and the oldest workable wood in the world. These giant trees have been preserved, buried in peat swamps, for more than 45,000 years.



**The Kauri Museum, Matakoho** – The museum tells the story of the pioneering days through the use of kauri timber. It houses the largest collection of kauri gum in the world, antique kauri furniture, old vehicles and machinery, and a working steam mill.



**The Waitomo Glow Worm Caves** – Thousands of glow worms, unique to New Zealand, radiate their luminescent light throughout this geologically significant cave system.

### The Bay Of Islands

On the east coast lies a length of sand and rock coastline encircling a sea pierced by 150 islands. Discovered by the legendary Maori navigator Kupe, visited by Captain Cook in 1769, and home to the Nga Puhi tribe (iwi) of Maori, the Bay of Islands is a world renowned tourist area.



## Any Other Business

### Meeting Dates

**The Next Meeting** – will be held at 11.00 am on **Tuesday, 26th April** in the Sports Bar of the Laurieton United Services Club.

### Membership Inquiries

For information on shed activities or membership, contact Robert Rule (President) on 6559 8612 or Mike Rolfe (Secretary/Treasurer) on 6559 8627.

### Contacts – The Steering Committee

President	Robert Rule 6559 8612 e-mail: rjrule@tsn.cc
Secretary/ Treasurer	Mike Rolfe 6559 8627, e-mail: glenandmikerolfe@gmail.com
Paul Nossiter	6586 3911
Stuart Grierson	6585 5835
Clive Chapman	6586 3744
Gary Clifford	6559 6974
John Denyer	6584 8098

### Shed Shavings

For newsletter matters, contact editor Clive on 6586 3744 or e-mail clives1@westnet.com.au.

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### STILL WANTED – DINGO TRAPS

If you have any or know where we might beg, borrow or steal some, please contact Rob Rule or a committee member.