



WAVERLEY COMMUNITY
MEN'S SHED INC.

SCUTTLEBUTT

WCMS MEMBERS' NEWSLETTER

Issue # 9

SEPTEMBER 2020

Editor: Tom Wolf: <tom@aces.net.au>

All photographs and articles published remain the copyright property of the contributor and WCMS unless released. Some articles are researched from internet material and no copyright infringement is intended

IF YOU ARE NOT WELL, YOU ARE NOT WELCOME AT THE SHED!



FROM THE EDITOR

Regrettably, due to COVID-19 restrictions we have had to cancel our "R U OK? Breakfast", and other discussion activities, we'll try again when it's safe.

These are very troubling times, regrettably there are all too many men out in the community who have lost their jobs and because of their age, or because of the nature of their industry or business, may never be able to get a job into the foreseeable future (if ever). Every one of us may in fact know some of these men who are doing it very tough and are feeling depressed, isolated, lonely and abandoned. Our thoughts go out for all those who are suffering from COVID-19 illness and all its consequences, as well as those who are also financially and socially affected without the COVID illness. Unfortunately one thing that comes out of this has been even deeper isolation with resultant loneliness and in some instances deep depression in people, so please keep in touch and look after your mates.

Alcoholism, violence or worse still, self-harm, is often the option these men take and we owe our fellow men a duty to assist, advise and mentor.

Not with any motivation to be a membership drive, this is a time when we, as Shedders, ought to stand with our mates, fellow members or not, "shoulder to shoulder" and tactfully offer the mateship they need. Just ask R U OK?.

This month we continue with the brief biography of another one of our members. Should you wish to share your life story and experiences (and why you joined the Shed), reduced to about 1 to 1.5 pages of type, we would love to hear your story. Of course you must be aware that Scuttlebutt takes time to put together, but there is nothing to put together unless **YOU CONTRIBUTE**, so I am looking forward to hearing from you (the earlier the better).

Stay healthy and well, Tom

RUOK? DAY™

A conversation
could change
a life.

**TO SAFEGUARD MEMBERS' HEALTH AND FOR COVID-19
RESTRICTIONS, THE R U OK? BREAKFAST
ON Wednesday, September 9
HAS BEEN **CANCELLED** FOR 2020.
We'll try again next year.**



PROSTATE CANCER DISCUSSION

REGRETTABLY, IN ORDER TO SAFEGUARD THE HEALTH OF OUR MEMBERS AND TO COMPLY WITH THE LAW, THIS ACTIVITY IS

CANCELLED

We'll try again later when it's safe.



WILLS; POWERS OF ATTORNEY AND GUARDIANSHIP MATTERS

REGRETTABLY, IN ORDER TO SAFEGUARD THE HEALTH OF OUR MEMBERS AND TO COMPLY WITH THE LAW, THIS ACTIVITY IS

CANCELLED

We'll try again later when it's safe



FIRST AID COURSE

As previously advised, with the current uncertainties with gathering and distancing, we are waiting to arrange a date with Phil Wicks.

Because of the continued risk of the virus and having regard to the age of most of our members (not the least also Phil), no date can be set.

As we informed earlier in Scuttlebutt, there will be a choice of 2 courses:

1. a full Certificate Course (including CPR) good for 3 years, and
2. an Emergency Care course involving just bandaging, and basic care (including use of the Defibrillator and EpiPen).

The full Certificate Course will cost \$120.00 per person, the Emergency Care Course is \$30.00 per person, at this time we are still investigating whether partial funding may be available.



LATHE INSTRUCTION

We thank **Ian Dawes** and **Peter Charlton** for volunteering to help out our members by giving instruction on the use of the wood lathe.

Unfortunately the demand for their time and assistance has been so great that they have been spending all their working time at the Shed helping out and unable to do any of their own jobs.

Therefore, please be advised that they will each limit their instruction time as follows:

Ian Dawes Mondays 9:15am - 10:45am

Peter Charlton Mondays 10:45 -12noon; 12:45pm - 2:00pm

ALL instruction sessions are to be booked in advance and you must comply with all the other rules of conduct (including booking to come to the Shed with Peter Black). The lunch break will be observed.



ELECTRIC EQUIPMENT TESTING

As our members are aware, all electric tools and appliances that are used in the Shed need to be tested and tagged prior to use. It depends on the type of tool and appliance as to whether this testing needs to be carried out every 6 or 12 or 24 months. We have our own team of qualified testers in our Shed. These tests and the tagging are required under legal regulations and hence we take them very seriously.

What is the consequence to the general membership? Simple! Any and all electric tools and appliances that you own and wish to bring to the Shed to be used on your project has to be tested and tagged or it cannot be used in the Shed, no matter how vital it is to complete your project. Battery driven tools are exempt, but their chargers are included. Usually the testers nominate a date when they are available to do the tagging and all tests are recorded in a Register and a Tag is attached to the power cord.

The date for the next testing and tagging will be notified when it is known, in the meantime if you do have such a tool or appliance that you want tested and tagged please advise me by email at [<tom@aces.net.au>](mailto:tom@aces.net.au), the necessary arrangements will be made. When tested and tagged it is expected that a small donation be made to the Shed.



FIND THAT NAIL!!

We know that nails are deadly to our valuable machinery causing incredible damage unless they are removed before getting them caught in a rotating blade. It can also be an expensive lesson. In case the SawStop, if the cartridge is activated the machine operator may have to pay for a new cartridge and sawblade..

So how do we check it all out? Merely running the metal detector over the timber is not good enough.

Metal detectors do not detect alloys and aluminium; nor brass and copper fasteners! So:

1. You have to look for tell-tale signs, such as:
 - a holes in the timber, there may still be a stub of a nail in the timber
 - b a metallic gleam where the nail broke off at or near the surface
 - c ensure you visually closely inspect on all 6 surfaces of the timber (top, bottom and 4 sides)
2. Run your hand over the timber, often you can feel what you cannot see.

Even if a piece of wood appears clean and new, and not previously used, you shouldn't assume anything! It may have staples that once held a label!



LEARN BASIC MICROSOFT PUBLISHER AT WCMS!!

Would you like to learn how to create and/or edit a newsletter such as "Scuttlebutt"? It requires minimum computer skills and can be learned in less than 1 hour (with at least 4 follow up "reinforcing" sessions). You learn how to manage text and photos, cut-and-paste and all those other basic editing skills that you probably already have, and in any case are not difficult to learn.

Even if you don't have a computer available for you at home, the computers at the Waverley Shed are there to be used.

Your editing skills need not necessarily create a literary classic, and you should not feel inhibited whether or not you excel in English grammar. This isn't school.

If interested, contact **Tom Wolf** at [<tom@aces.net.au>](mailto:tom@aces.net.au), or at the Shed



We acknowledge the source of this article from the Winter 2020 issue of The Shedder, the newsletter of AMSA. Most of you (or is it all of you) have never heard about **The Shed Wireless**. When COVID-19 forced more than 1200 Sheds across Australia to lock their doors for an unknown period, The Shed Wireless was born, as social isolation is contradictory to everything we're all about. Men's Sheds are a place of belonging.

The Shed Wireless is a podcast, which is a pre-recorded radio show that you can listen to any time you like.

How do you listen? If you're internet savvy and already listen to podcasts just search for **The Shed Wireless** on Apple podcasts, Google or Spotify.

If you're not great with that stuff, ask someone who can help get you set up via the link: mensshed.org/theshedwireless

The Shed Wireless will continue past the COVID-19 period, a new season with fresh episodes released fortnightly began on 23 July. The episodes feature a different Men's Shed each episode, up-to-date information for Shed committees and members, and important medical stuff for aging men.



RADIO AMATEURS IN THE EAST

The **Waverley Amateur Radio Society (WARS)** was formed in 1919 (yes, over 100 years ago!) in the Eastern Suburbs of Sydney and is the oldest, continuously licensed, amateur radio club in Australia. It is a very active club and caters for the hobbies of amateur radio and electronics with a variety of activities. The Club presently operates from the Scout Hall at 4 Vickery Avenue, Rose Bay (between the RSL Club and the Woollahra Sailing Club).

In the old weatherboard Scout Hall, the Club members implement and use awesome technology, they are gurus in wireless, radio, computers and internet stuff. There is always something to learn.

The Club deals with both experienced radio amateurs (sometimes called "HAMS") and total novices. Regardless of age, there are regular training courses available for those who wish to get involved.

For more information, visit <https://vk2bv.org/>

All WCMS members know of Tom Wolf's recent encounter with COVID-19 and Tom is often asked how he feels now. He wrote a letter to AMSA which is published on the AMSA Shed

Online page. Tom's letter will go far to answer all questions:

"I'm a COVID survivor but I feel different on the inside": Tom's story

written by **Australian Men's Shed Association**, 20 August 2020

74 year old Tom Wolf is a member of Waverley Men's Shed. Here he describes his experience of COVID-19.

"I still look the same from the outside but feel different on the inside.

I spent 19 days in St Vincents Hospital including 5 days on a ventilator, 14 days altogether under sedation and in an induced coma.

I am still being investigated by the medicos and this will be ongoing for some time yet.

I do (and did) have problems post-hospitalisation as follows:

- nasal and sinus problems, still have constant runny nose (probably caused by the tubes etc they had up my nose)
- the usual waterworks problems post catheterization, cleared up mainly about 3 weeks
- mild airflow restriction of lung and mild lung restriction of volumes
- moderate lower diffusion of lungs...this is one of the major ongoing symptoms, breathless after a short walk (150-200 metres walk on level ground), stairs and hills almost impossible
- carotid arteries blockage and possible micro clots in the brain being investigated
- I have moderate to high immunity for the strain of COVID that I had (but that may no longer be the dominant strain)

But despite the above, it just feels good to be ALIVE!!

The Waverley Men's Shed has reopened, but very restricted opening subject to the maximum numbers allowed by social distancing and the 4 square metre rule. So attendance is by reserving space, which is limited to 10 per day.

I am the vice-president of that Shed, which is open 3 days a week. On the other days I help run a 'Men's Cave' in a retirement village/nursing home at Vaucluse.

This helps the men in the village who are outnumbered by women something like 6 to 1 and never get much input into any conversation.

This Cave is more a coffee club even though the village management have provided fantastic space and a small number of tools. We just have to be careful in recognising the limitations of the aged.

I hope [these issues] will assist the informing of others in the movement about how dangerous this illness is, particularly as I understand there is a huge amount of grumbling about the restrictions.

I remain very positive and want to get on with the rest of my life.

I enjoy my family and friends and currently regret that (in light of Victoria and my fear of catching it again) I have again needed to (voluntarily) isolate/minimalise contact from my mates at the Shed and the Retirement Village.

I attach a photo taken at the Waverley Shed's exhibition last November with one of my creations. I am a model shipbuilder, I do this (amongst other things) at the Shed.





WHAT A HOME WORKSHOP!

In mid-July we asked members how they were coping with COVID-19, and we were delighted when **Colin Lipworth** sent us both a photograph of an incredibly well equipped home workshop and also of two projects that Colin completed during his period of isolation. WOW! Beautiful work!



LATEST LATHE CREATIONS

The woodturners are busy in spite of the limited numbers of members who can attend at the Shed.

Rodger Jamieson is so excited by having learned to use the lathe that it is difficult to keep him away! His latest creation is making a pair of skipping rope ends. Not bad for one who was an absolute beginner only a few weeks ago!!

In between teaching how to use the lathe, **Ian ("Magic-Ian") Dawes** quickly knocked up a bowl to demonstrate the skill.





RODNEY BASSETTI'S ART

We would be remiss if we didn't give proper credit to **Rodney Bassetti** for almost singlehandedly organising last November's very successful WCMS Show, an opportunity for members to show off their incredible skills and creations.

We have previously featured Rodney's art in Scuttlebutt. It is a pleasure to feature a selection of Rodney's paintings that he presented at the Show.



Rodney utilises an interesting method of painting in which he bases his paintings on photographs, but the resultant work creates a liveliness and a flood of vibrant colours that no photograph could have captured. Rodney has agreed to assist any budding artist who may wish to follow him into that world of colour.



THE SKILLS OF TONY MANDARANO

Tony has been a member of WCMS almost from its beginnings, and is often seen doing jobs and helping out others, but invariably is seen with great chunks of timber. Many people therefore do not appreciate the fine work that Tony does, his incredible skills with his lathe. It was pleasing to see Tony display his "fine art" at last year's November Show, and as will be seen from the photos, his work caught the eye of our local member for Coogee, Dr Marjorie O'Neill MLA.



Tony is constantly on the look-out for exotic timbers (in fact any timbers) that can be turned, carved or otherwise utilised for his creations.





MALE REPRODUCTIVE AND SEXUAL HEALTH

Extracted from the 2018 booklet by that title and reproduced with the kind permission of Healthy Male (Andrology Australia)

Good health is vital for a happy and full life. But as life gets busy, sometimes it's easy to overlook what's happening in your body. Reproductive and sexual health plays a key role in your wellbeing.

Common conditions that men may face

Prostate enlargement

Most common in older men, about one in seven Australian men over 40 years of age have problems with their prostate. The most common prostate disease is a noncancerous enlargement of the prostate called benign prostatic hyperplasia (BPH). While not usually life-threatening, for some men BPH can have a major effect on quality of life because of problems with urination.

Medicines, and sometimes surgery, can help the symptoms of prostate disease. However, not all urination problems are caused by the prostate, so it's important to see your doctor to find the cause.

Prostate cancer

Each year, about 20,000 Australian men are told they have prostate cancer. Prostate cancer often causes no symptoms, so as men get older, it's a good idea to talk to a doctor about tests. Common tests for prostate cancer include the prostate specific antigen (PSA) blood test, or specialist referral for a digital rectal examination, ultrasound or MRI scans, and prostate biopsy.

There's much debate about the PSA test, so talk it over with a doctor to see if it is appropriate for you and to make sure you understand all the benefits and risks of testing. Early prostate cancer can be treated with surgery, radiation therapy or active surveillance.

Erectile dysfunction

Sexual problems in men are more common than you might think. About one in five Australian men over the age of 40 have problems getting or keeping an erection (erectile dysfunction or impotence). In some cases, erectile dysfunction is a sign of a serious health problem such as diabetes or heart disease.

There are many treatments for erectile dysfunction, including medicines, but talking to your partner and your doctor is the most important first step. Even if the cause of erectile dysfunction is a physical one, getting some counselling or emotional support is an important part of treatment.

Androgen (testosterone) deficiency

Lower energy levels, mood swings, bad temper (irritability), poor concentration, reduced muscle strength or a lack of interest in sex can be a sign of androgen deficiency (low testosterone levels). About one in 200 men in Australia have androgen deficiency, but not all are diagnosed.

Androgen (testosterone) deficiency affects men of all ages and can be caused by a genetic or medical problem, or by damage to the testicles. In some men, testosterone levels fall with older age mostly often due to illness or weight gain. Androgen deficiency is diagnosed by a doctor such as your GP, or by a specialist (usually an endocrinologist). Testosterone treatment can be given by a doctor in the form of injections, capsules, creams or gels.

Testicular cancer

Testicular cancer is the second most common cancer in men aged from 18 to 39, with about 700 Australian men diagnosed each year. But it's easy to treat and more than 95 per cent of men are cured.

A hard, painless lump in the testicle is the most common symptom, but the testicle may also feel painful and tender. In a few men, constant backache, coughing or breathlessness, and enlarged or tender nipples can mean the cancer has spread to other parts of the body. Surgical removal of the cancerous testicle is the first treatment for all testicular cancer. This surgery almost never affects sexual performance. It is important to consider sperm banking before starting treatment for testicular cancer.

The most important step is to see your doctor.

DISCLAIMER FOR USE

This column is supplied by Healthy Male, a national organisation that provides easy access to the latest scientific and medical research on male reproductive and sexual health. Healthy Male is supported by funding from the Australian Government Department of Health.

For more information, go to healthymale.org.au.

This information has been provided for education purposes only. It is not intended to take the place of a clinical diagnosis or proper medical advice from a fully qualified health professional. Healthy Male urges readers to seek the services of a qualified medical practitioner for any personal health concerns.



TECHIE TIPS #3

JIGS AND FIXTURES

I often hear '*...I'm not a tradesman, nor even much of a handyman ...*' so this month's Techie Tips is for newbies.

Jigs and fixtures are things to help make life easier while making something - especially at home.



Simply put- a **Jig** is a device which guides the tool, while a **fixture** is a device that securely holds the job in position while you do something

If all you have is a battery drill, a tenon saw and some F-clamps, here are a few simple ones to get you started.

SQUARE DRILLING JIG

Nail together a couple of 38mm x 19mm scrap pieces about 80mm long to form a right angle as shown. It's important to make everything true and square. For a more robust jig, add some glue to the joint. When the jig wears out, make another one.

To use: Position the drill bit tight into the corner of the jig as shown and drill your hole.

BENCH HOOK



A **bench hook** minimizes the need for a vice or clamps and allows you to make quick cuts while protecting the worktop. You can use this on any surface with a square edge or even a stair tread if you don't have a work bench.

To make this simple bench hook find a plank or scrap ply at least 16mm thick for the **platform** and determine how long you'd like it to be. A suggested size is 300mm long by 240mm wide but go with what you have to hand.

Cut the 38mm by 19mm **hook piece** at the bottom to the width of the **platform** and the **top fence** about 25mm shorter than the platform width. Next, fasten them together with wood glue to opposite ends of the platform as shown in the picture. This allows for the bench hook to secure to the front edge of your work surface.

To use: Put the bench hook on the worktop, place the timber to be cut against the top fence, lean forward and use the palm of your hand to hold the workpiece in place as you cut.

Safety tip: Keep your thumb **away from the saw blade**

CORNER CLAMP FIXTURE



This handy little fixture is self-explanatory in layout and uses any timber offcuts with square ends.

Make them in pairs with holes to suit your F-clamps. Mark out the position of the two holes and cut with a suitable **holesaw**.

If you don't have a holesaw you can use a **spade bit** but first drill a 6mm **pilot hole** using your **square drilling jig**.

The spade bit will follow the drilled pilot hole through the material. Make sure you **firmly clamp** the workpiece to a worktop. **Don't** force the spade bit through the timber and hold the drill firmly

Finally, you can cut the diagonal by clamping to the top fence on your newly made **bench hook**.

I hope you will find these helpful additions to your tool kit. If you need to ask anything email me at <waverleyshed@gmail.com>.

Clif



WCMS MEMBER: PETER BLACK

School was not his favourite place so, at 15, he left after the Intermediate Certificate and found a job behind the counter at Woolworths.

Upon making an error of a halfpenny in the sale of a replacement rubber heel for a lady's shoe, to the Managers Secretary (and not correcting it in the approved manner) he was fired.

Several jobs followed, including a week at an advertising agency. Expected to work overtime every day, and expecting to be paid accordingly, it all came to an abrupt end when he demanded payment for the 8 extra hours worked during the week. The firm initially refused to pay, suggesting he consider how much he could earn in the years to come. After due consideration of about 10 seconds, he resigned, demanded the money and threatened legal action. Inconveniently, he had to make a trip into town the following Monday, to pick up the overtime payment.



After trying some 5 different jobs and not really liking any of them, he set out one Monday for two interviews, one with the transport company Rudders Ltd, and the other with 3M. He also had another interview lined up but was sick of interviews and went to the pictures instead.

When he got home his mother said both companies had rung to say he had the job.

To cut a long story short, both had offered a wage of 5 pounds (\$10.00) per week. Five phone calls later, he had negotiated a starting wage of 7 pounds 10 shillings (a 50% increase) and went to work at Rudders Ltd. who were the 2nd largest Customs Agency and Transport Company in Australia (at the time). Starting out as the lunch boy and pencil sharpener, among other mundane things, he moved through every facet of the business.

In 1967, Peter married Narelle and 4 years later, they became the proud parents of twin daughters Alison and Kelley.

In 1977, he was appointed General Manager of what was then a division of TNT Aust.

During his career, one of his most memorable experiences was during the 1982 recession when unemployment was over 10%, he was instructed by senior management of TNT, that in order to save money he had to dismiss 5 staff in the Sydney office.

Instead, he called a staff meeting and gave everyone an option. He could dismiss five people OR, everyone could work one day less per fortnight, and no-one would be sacked.

The next day, all but one person agreed to the loss of a day's pay per fortnight, so the majority ruled and no one lost their job. Within three months the edict was withdrawn and all went back to full pay.

With offices in every state and over 100 staff, Peter held the position of GM until 1988 when he was offered the opportunity to purchase ATP P/L, an Automatic Transmission Parts Distribution business, with warehouses in Sydney and Brisbane and a staff of 14.

He invited one of his friends and a close working associate, from Rudders, to join him in the business as General Manager. Shortly after, another good friend and colleague, who had retired as an accountant at TNT, joined ATP and re-organised the accounting practices to enable the business to expand.

In time, the business expanded into the distribution of Power Steering Parts and within 5 years had become the largest distributor of P/S parts in Australia. ATP then went on to purchase the company that had acted as their Agent in Adelaide so that, together with distributors in the other major Cities and Towns, it was the primary source of original equipment and after-market parts for the transmission and steering repair industry in Australia.

In 2005, the business was sold to its largest competitor (Repcos P/L) and Peter went off to play golf, until joining the Men's Shed in July 2013.

Married to Narelle for over 53 years, he puts his success down to her love, support and friendship.

The best business advice he ever received, before he left school, was from his father,

"1. Always apply common sense to resolve any problem.

2. If you don't like your job, resign after finding another one ..."



SUNDAY MUSINGS on 26th July

It's coming up to August as I write this, and two (or is it three years? ... the time flies when you are having fun at Waverley Community Men's Shed), since I met Tom Wolf in Bunnings at Eastgardens.

The cup of coffee at Bunnings turned into an invitation to come and see what goes on at the Men's Shed and a week or so later I fronted up, filled out the application forms and paid my insurance.

I have a small wood-working bench in the garage of my unit, but the equipment and machines that I saw on entering the Shed blew my mind, table saws, band saws, sanders and other machines that I didn't even recognise.

After building a tombola barrel with my grandson in my own garage and struggling with a jig saw and hand tools, I saw that Nirvana was attainable and dreams could be fulfilled.

Obviously there has been some genetic influence, as Dad was an accomplished handyman who left the stress of teaching at the gate on Friday afternoons and filled school holidays with projects.

Constructing stone walls in the garden, rebuilding the garage (we won't say why), building storage sheds on the side of the house and turning the top floor of our home into my bedroom and study so I could escape from younger brothers.

The pièce de résistance was the addition of a completely new toilet, hallway and new front entrance to the house, built, I find out many years later, with only the finest building materials!

So, what is Waverley Men's Shed? My own workshop without the cost of equipping it, access to human encyclopaedias of woodworking knowledge and a safe working area, as well as a place of escape on my down-time day after a weekend of working at coin and bank-note shows. Mondays are days to look forward to in the James family.

There is just no way that appointments are scheduled on the first day of the week; even the boss knows better than to suggest that 'maybe we could do...' and is rewarded by a renewed 'happy chappie' upon return from his new man-cave i.e. the Shed.

I suppose it is inevitable that the past catches up with one. Prior crimes, make that prior office manager skills, are not forgotten and within a short period of time I was placed on the administration supervisors' roster, although it will take much longer to gain the trust needed to be allowed free reign in the machine room. Still, giving back makes the world go round and its only once a month – in non-Covid-19 times.

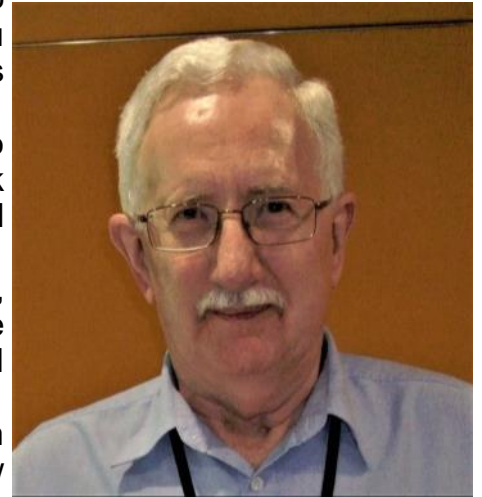
There is something really satisfying about making an article with one's own hands, a one off, dare one claim, unique. These gems are surprisingly well received by the beneficiaries, that is, if the maker can bear to part with the product of his sweat and toil.

I have done the universal James-breadboard for family members and those who appreciate a handcrafted gift, even if the heat-branded inscription leaves something to be desired in its calligraphy.

This was followed by my first attempts at wood turning, where much more was learned than produced. First lesson – different woods have different properties and hard woods are not for the beginner, so what if it was cheap, that's why the block of wood cost only \$5.

Wood carving equips the amateur with patience and new found skills, what with sharpening chisels, using files, belt sanders and copious amounts of sandpaper, as well as the new-found wonder tool — the Dremmel, which endows one with new skills for new strokes, even if each action reminds the user of being in the dentist's chair.

Has anyone an idea for birthday or Christmas/Hanukkah presents now all of the family have inscribed bread boards?



Tony James



THEY'RE OFF AGAIN!

Not even selling his mobile home could keep **Richard "Itchy Feet" Cortis** and wife Dagmar from getting out of Sydney. They escaped to Pokolbin in the Hunter Valley where the air is cold and clear but the water tastes very hard.

Ho Hum! We guess they shall just have to drink wine!

This was their view. No crowd, just cattle eating grass. People are far apart and distance rules are enforced.

They walked three kilometres around the paddock and saw only cows. Just a suggestion for a mid-week escape, only three hours away from Bondi Junction.



Dagmar and Richard spent two and a half hours on a quick walk, expending about 9000 steps, through the enormous Hunter Valley Garden at Pokolbin. Here there are Rose gardens, oriental gardens and a children's fairytale garden, among other genre. Lots of small streams, possibly using pumped water. Their visit was a quick wander through, but a detail assessment could take a week. It certainly fatigued Richard's delicate legs.

They stayed at the Hunter Valley Resort which is quiet during the week but a bit frenetic on Friday/

Saturday nights. It claims four star but is nothing flash. There are however many places which provide accommodation and meals. They are more expensive, but you can probably source some discount accommodation on line.

Accommodation associated with wineries is usually out in the paddock, but there are a multitude along Hermitage Road. Quiet and secluded but the down side is that you have to eat there unless you go out for lunch and dinner. Dagmar and Richard opted for a barbecue chicken and salad in their room, all accompanied by a bottle of wine from the grog shop. In between lunch and dinner they spent a quiet afternoon with instant coffee on their balcony.

On a separate not, the wood turners wanted to use a keyed chuck on the new lathe as the keyless chucks undo when wound backwards.

They had the chuck but Richard was handed the task of making a Morse T2 taper to fit the lathe tail stock and screw to the supplied chuck.

Before he set off for his wine tasting escapade, Richard completed the task, the photo on the right is the result.

