



WAVERLEY COMMUNITY
MEN'S SHED INC.

SCUTTLEBUTT

WCMS MEMBERS' NEWSLETTER

Patron - The Hon. Marjorie O'Neill MP, Member for Coogee

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



FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

With the distraction of the Federal election now over, we can again concentrate on finding a new home, although with recent developments it is looking bleaker than ever. Last time we reported about this, we had the prospect of a site in South Maroubra, which has since become unavailable/impractical/impossible to contemplate.

Regrettably we can't report that there is a prospect on the horizon, so we are still looking for ideas of sites that may be available in the Eastern Suburbs, if you become aware of anything, please let Peter Charlton know.

From time to time we become aware of members with health issues, but there must be something in the air, recently we have had 6 members sick and in hospital all at the same time. Our Welfare Officer has made contact with all the members and has given support. If you become aware of a member who is sick, please let Peter Ulmer know.

We are pleased to introduce a new segment that will continue monthly if our members approve. Ian Dawes, a very keen twitcher, has agreed that his notes and photos on birds he's made over the years be available for publication in the newsletter. Please let us know what you think?

Uniting

Uniting War Memorial Hospital

invites you to a face-to-face seminar on

RESPIRATORY HEALTH

Monday 2nd June, 1pm to 2:45pm

War Memorial Hospital Day Centre, 125 Birrell St Waverley

- Dr Paul Hamor, respiratory and sleep physician
- Clare Chung, senior physiotherapist Respiratory Coordinated Care Program

Entry from 12.30pm, light lunch will be provided.

Bookings essential: Catriona 93690215

or catriona.beaumont@health.nsw.gov.au



Learn the F.A.S.T. signs of stroke

Face Has it drooped?

Arms Can they lift both?

Speech Is it slurred?

Time is critical! Call triple zero (000).

Act FAST and you could save a life.

SHED GOINGS-ON (CURRENT PROJECTS ETC.)



Recovering from recent leg surgery, **Kenny Lazarus** had problems with drinks and food etc as he was moving about. Thinking about it, he came up with this *personalised tray*.



Tom Wolf asked **Mo Dhanoya** to help making a *pedestal stand* for a small hand held electric fan. Very successful project! (right)



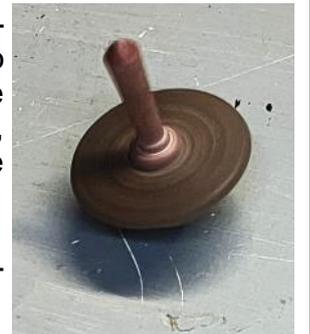
The *china cabinet* that **Peter Black** is making for one of our neighbours is taking shape, it is just about finished (left)



Jeff Silberbach is turning a *vase* on the lathe (right)



Our bird expert, **Ian Dawes**, has made a prototype *bird house* that in his expert opinion no self respecting bird would utilise. He feels the entry hole is too large (or the box is too small), but it would still be a good project for a future Bunnings activity. (left)



As we know, **Ian** also makes lots of toys, including *spinning tops* (right)



The latest in his drawer full of designer pens, **Sid Lewinsky** has come up with a *multi-coloured design* (left)

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cont. from p.2

Sid Lewinsky has just about perfected the spindle turning involved in making pens, he is now learning the other forms of turning. He has just completed his first **bowl** (right)



Peter Black is now making a number of **bird houses** requested by Waverley Council (left)



EASTER TOYMAKING ACTIVITY AT BUNNINGS

On 10th April 2026, a team of members from the Waverley Shed attended Eastgardens Bunnings for their Easter promotion, and helped children to assemble wooden toys. This is a fundraising activity for the Shed as we receive help throughout the year from Bunnings, as well as a donation for assisting their promotion. A big **THANK YOU** to **Ian Dawes, Mo Dhanoya** and **Sid Lewinsky**, who all helped out on the activity



TIPS FOR MAKING NEW FRIENDS:

From Midland Men's Shed (WA) newsletter

Making new friends often requires stepping out of your comfort zone. Here are some effective tips for forging new relationships:

1. Don't hesitate to introduce yourself and start conversations.
2. Participate actively in group activities to increase your interactions.
3. Be open and approachable; a warm smile and a kind demeanour can go a long way.
4. Consider finding a companion to join you in activities, reducing the initial pressure of socializing alone.

Remember, many people are eager to make friends and share experiences. Your openness can encourage others to reciprocate, leading to meaningful connections.



CORTIS TRAVEL ADVISORY

In August 2024, **Richard Cortis** travelled to **Cunnamulla, Qld**, where he found a petrol operated iron in a local museum.

Used in households before electricity was connected, it had a metal globe shaped container with a small curved metal hose where the petrol was held. The small metal pipe with a screw attached below is to control the flow of petrol.





MATCHING PAINT COLOURS

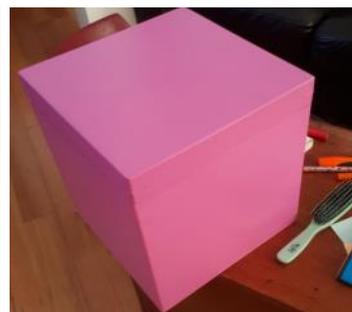
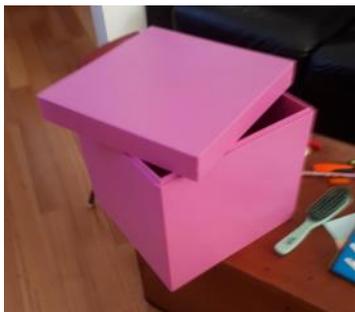
Many of us are amazed by the huge variety of skills possessed by our Shed members. So it was with **William Honeyball** who was having problems matching the **finishing stain** on the "Britannia" model. Well, along came **Steve Weymouth** who said he may be able to help him as he had prior knowledge, due to working as a painter some time ago. Lo and behold, he came and overcame William's dilemma, the very next day he gave William a small pot of perfectly colour mixed varnish!! So another secret skill has come to light! This skill should be brought to members' attention as Steve may be able to help others in the Shed, and a big personal **"Thank you Steve"**, from William,



THE PINK BOX

William Honeyball has made a lovely pink box for his grand-daughter's birthday in her favourite colour. Made with love and affection ... and a bit of 9mm wood, glue and pink paint.

A most thoughtful gift!



BIRD OF THE MONTH Flame Robin - *Petroica phoenicea*

Report and photos by Ian Dawes

Flame robins are found across eastern NSW, Victoria and Tasmania. They were once seen in the Sydney area, but no longer thanks to urban development and the ingress of noisy miners.

The robin on the right was photographed at the Inala bird sanctuary on Bruny Island while we were celebrating our 55th wedding anniversary in Tasmania.



The flame robin is one of six related robins with a red or pink breast, all belonging to the genus *Petroica*.

Most of them are rather more resplendent than the British robin illustrated on the left. The other five are the rose, pink, scarlet, red-capped and Pacific.

The last of these is endangered and restricted to Norfolk Island, so if anyone is visiting there, keep a good look out.



BRAINFREEZE

"OOPS!"





LETTER TO THE EDITOR

EASTER SHOW ART

From Rodney Bassetti

Members will recall that I ran an Art Class at our Shed some time ago. Of the members who attended, Neil Barnard (now of City North Men's Shed) is the only one still painting. He is more than a good painter, he is a very good keen painter with a growing body of work and he attends a professional art class occasionally. Both of us offered works in the latest 2025 RAS Easter Show.

The RAS is a very good place for a new artist to be "Shown" - The cost is small, the show allows you to have exposure to "they say" 10000 people per day.

Now these people can buy your work, and when I won in 2021, I also sold the work to a lady from Glenn Innes NSW. She rang me a week later and told me: "I love the Painting, and it has pride of place in my lounge room"-

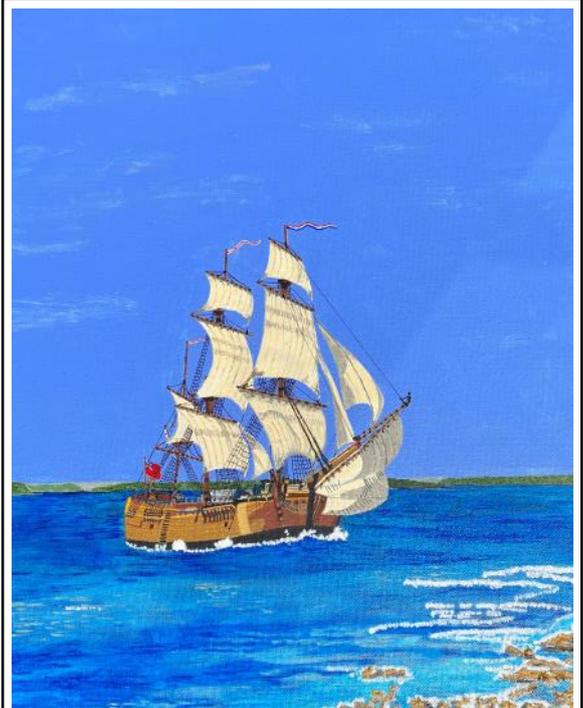
Now, there is nothing more wonderful than a happy customer in any field, and she was my start in Art. The following year's show I again exhibited, and was asked to describe my painting to two visitors within the Pavilion. Nothing is easier to talk about than your own creation, be it Art, Model Boats, or Furniture. So, I talked.

After a short while I realised that I had accumulated a crowd of 10 people. So, I apologised and was promptly reminded by a gentleman at the back, who said "Well start again - we missed the first bit" - So I did start again.

After another 5 minutes or so I stopped and the same gentleman said " You should have put more blue in the Sky". I said, "You are a stirrer", and we all laughed.

He came back with " NO, I am a Rodney" and the laughter continued.

Now that was one of the best moments of my life as an old man. I had everything I wanted, 15 people enjoying themselves because of my painting. How good is that!



Modern "Endeavour" but the hull is black as per all English Ship of the 1770 era. As she did not enter the harbour, it is painted off South Head, where it is believed it sailed



Photo of part of Rodney's "Gallery" at home.

At the same show, I had another painting of a young man in the wood chopping competition. In the early days of this show it had not sold, so I went down to the "Woodchop Pavilion" , and asked for the boss.

I told him that that the painting was there and was still for sale. He said "We are choppers, we don't go to the Art, we go to the Pub". We all laughed. And, surprise, surprise, the artwork was sold the next day and now lives in Surry Hills, Sydney

If I had my way, everyone would learn to paint, make model boats, join Sheds or sail.

MODEL YACHT "BRITANNIA"

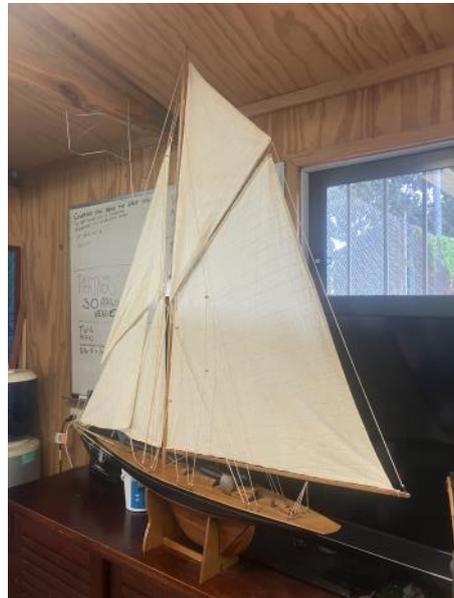
Report and photos by Tom Wolf



His Majesty's Yacht *Britannia* was a gaff-rigged cutter built in 1893 for Prince Edward, Prince of Wales (later King Edward VII). She went on to serve his son, King George V with a long racing career, *Britannia* set about achieving results which established her as the most successful racing yacht of all time, winning 231 races and taking another 129 flags.

Graced with beautiful lines and evoking favourable comments from all who saw it, William Honeyball was tasked with the job of repairing and re-rigging this model of the "Britannia" yacht. She was donated to the Shed and destined to become a fundraiser, but first she required a lot of TLC.

There were no 2 ways about it, the work had to be done correctly or not at all. That is why William was given the task.



In her present guise, she is a decorative model, but to one who is very skilled in these things, she could also be adapted to be a pond sailer (but only with further work being carried out on the steering).

BEAUTIFUL WORK WILLIAM!!

I'm on two diets ...

I wasn't getting enough food on just one!





GIRL GUIDE TREFOIL STREET LIBRARY

We have been reporting that **Steve Weymouth** is making a **trefoil shape street library** for the Bondi Girl Guides Hall at Thomas Hogan Reserve, Bondi.



As one would expect having regard to the unusual design, this has been a long-term project that was requested/commissioned by the local guides. The three flower petals and the stem of the flower each contain a box that will hold books.



PRISON SHOES

By Tod Thompson

Most people in prison are only interested in getting out. When you think of rock climbing shoes, you could be forgiven for thinking that the only relationship they would have to prison walls would be how to climb over and get out.

The rock climbing shoes below helped me get **into** prison!

As part of my mission, I sometimes go to Long Bay jail to discuss and counsel about recovery from drug addiction. To advocate the concept that, being clean is a better life than using drugs, and that getting and staying clean, while difficult, is possible and worthwhile.

On a recent journey to the Malabar Hilton (Long Bay Jail) to share this message with interested guests of the prison system, I was admitted into the external prison cage.

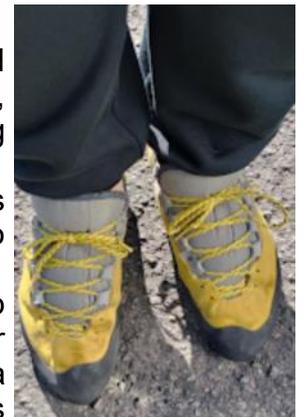
Thereupon a burly, uniformed prison guard, wearing equally burly steel cap boots, informed me that my crocs were not adequate foot covering to enter the prison proper and refused me entry. To be fair, I had been informed a number of times about the requirement for closed shoes, but I forgot this pertinent information!)

Using the patience I have learned over the years and being adaptable and versatile, I returned to my car. After a thorough search, I found my trusty Scarpa marathon climbing shoes/ With a raffish grin, I put them on in the carpark and walked back to the prison gate. After a long and querying look at my shoes, I was admitted entry to the prison.

I ran the recovery meeting with the inmates, all wearing prison greens and comfortable, generic white trainers, with only one comment on my unorthodox footwear.

I was quite eager to finish, after having worn the tight climbing shoes for 90 minutes.

It wasn't the first time I was grateful for the comfort of the 'all day' climbing shoe that is the Scarpa Marathon!



LORD HOWE ISLAND VISIT

Report by Peter Robilliard



My wife Jo and I recently visited Lord Howe Island (again) for our annual mental health break from living in Sydney.

LHI is approximately 600 kms. north east of Sydney, and about 400 kms due east of Port Macquarie. It was discovered by the British on their way to Norfolk Island to set up a penal colony for the worst behaving convicts.



We have been visiting the island since first arriving there by Sunderland flying boat in 1972.

Why, you might ask? Its stunning beauty, crystal clear waters, lagoon, coral, fish, bird life come readily to mind. Not for nothing has the island achieved a World Heritage rating.

It's a place where almost all tourists ride hired bicycles to get around, with other options being 3 wheelers, hire cars or shanks' pony. The island speed limit is 25 km/h, so no worries about being cleaned up by a speeding car.

A question people often ask is, 'what is there to do, it's such a small island?'

- Scenic walks are popular.
- National Parks organise group visits and schedule guided walks every day, while Pine-trees guest house do something similar with walks and also lagoon and ocean accompanied swims.
- There's an 8 hour guided climb to the top of the ex volcano Mountain Gower where the reward is a stunning view of the island and lagoon below.
- Snorkelling over the coral, observing fish, turtles, reef sharks, sting rays can be done easily.
- Body or surf board riding at various beach locations, as well as the reef.
- There's a small museum to explore with a cafe/restaurant and souvenir shop to while away some time.
- Golfers can be challenged on the island's 9 hole golf course, with a clubhouse offering stunning views while having a meal and/or drinks.
- The island is home to many birds, both local and migratory. The bird population has recovered dramatically since the eradication of raytus ratyus several years ago.
- For those interested in aviation, there is plenty of aeronautical history. The wreck of an RAAF Catalina which crashed at night in 1948 after experiencing mechanical issues can still be seen on the slopes of Malabar Hill. Francis Chichester stopped at the island on a world trip. During the night, his seaplane was blown ashore and had to be repaired and refloated before resuming his journey. Various Sunderland flying boats have been blown ashore too.

This is just a sample of some of the things to do on Lord Howe Island, each time we go there, there is something new to experience or observe.



Pictured left is a view of the lagoon and the two mountains, Lidge-bird and Gower

and on the right, the view from the lookout on Malabar towards the Admiralty Islands.



ACTIVITIES CONTINUE AT MARK MORAN VAUCLUSE

Waverley Shed member **Tom Wolf** has been conducting fortnightly activities for the nursing home residents of Mark Moran Vauclose.

Mostly, these activities are prepared at the Waverley Men's Shed, the latest project is the **assembling of bookends** cut at the Shed. These activities further the community involvement by members, **Kenny Lazarus** spent considerable time in preparing and cutting the timber pieces in readiness for the activity.



SAUCEPAN LID REPAIRS:

By Richard Cortis

Recently, someone dropped the glass lid of one of our good saucepans and broke the handle. **"Richard, can you repair this for me?"**

Inspection revealed that the handle had originally been a one piece zinc diecasting with the plastic handle moulded around the small central piece between the heavier end pieces. What to do?

The remaining two pieces of bracket were diecast and so were reasonably easy to drill but, being oddly shaped and still attached to the glass lid they were quite difficult to hold whilst drilling. Removing the rivets holding the two bits of bracket to glass lid was not a desirable option for a number of reasons.

Anyway, I managed to drill a 3.5mm horizontal hole in each piece of bracket. Phew! I then cut a piece of 3mm threaded rod to length and passed it in one end, through the plastic handle (after removing the broken diecast bit) and then into the other metal end piece.

I then introduced some waterproof sealant adhesive into each end to bond the threaded rod to the diecast handle bits. I applied a light clamping to push the metal bits against the plastic to hold everything in place whilst the glue set overnight.

So far, it looks okay and with a bit of a cleanup, it should look like a bought one! **Have fun fixing stuff!**



**SOMEONE AT THE BAR TOLD
ME TO LEAVE MY CAR AND
TAKE THE BUS HOME ...
TURNS OUT THAT I WAS
UNFIT TO DRIVE THAT
AS WELL!!**



BE FIRE SAFE THIS WINTER



With many electrical appliances plugged in to keep us warm, winter can be a dangerous time for fires. There are easy ways to lower the risks during the colder months:

- turn off heaters or electric blankets while asleep or when you are out
- stay alert and in the kitchen the whole time you're cooking
- learn safe ways to charge lithium-ion batteries
- check your smoke alarms.

Be fire safe by ticking all the boxes in the winter fire safety checklist, it will help prepare you, your family, and your home to be fire safe this winter.

HOME FIRE SAFETY CHECKLIST

SMOKE ALARMS

Did you know that you will not smell smoke while asleep? Only working smoke alarms save lives

- ◇ Test that your smoke alarm/s are working. If not, change the batteries or replace the alarm.
- ◇ Check the smoke alarm is in date. Smoke alarms have a lifespan of ten years.
- ◇ Give the smoke alarm a vacuum, if you haven't done so in the last six months, to remove dust and any insects.

To meet legislation you must have at least one working smoke alarm on each level of the home placed between bedrooms and living areas, it's the law. FRNSW also recommends having one in each bedroom, hardwired and interconnected is best.

ESCAPE PLANS

Having a home escape plan in conjunction with a working smoke alarm will greatly increase your chances of getting out safely. Every second counts.

Remember to consider the special needs of children, the elderly or the disabled when developing your escape plan.

If there is a fire in your home, do not wait, **EVERY SECOND COUNTS, GET OUT** and **STAY OUT** and then call Triple Zero (000). Never go back inside a burning building.

- ◇ Draw your escape plan, and discuss it with your whole family.
- ◇ Know and record two safe ways out of every room. Make sure that your windows and doors are not obstructed and can be unlocked and opened quickly if necessary.
- ◇ Practise your escape plan with your whole household including pets regularly. Your letter box is a great place to wait for firefighters arrival.
- ◇ As you escape make sure you close internal doors behind you. This can reduce fire spread and minimise damage.

FIREPLACES AND CHIMNEYS

- ◇ Have your chimney serviced prior to using it by a qualified tradesperson.
- ◇ Purchase a fire screen if you do not own one. Fire screens should always be placed in front of fireplaces when in use.
- ◇ Ensure your wood pile sits at least a metre away from the fireplace.
- ◇ Choose a safe place to store matches and lighters where children cannot reach and that is at least a metre away from the fireplace.

HEATERS

- ◇ Check your electric and gas heaters before you use them. If you suspect a fault have the item checked by a qualified repairer or replaced. Check all cords for fraying and damage. Plug heaters directly into wall sockets only.
- ◇ Do not overload powerboards.
- ◇ Ensure everything is kept a metre from the heater.
- ◇ Install any new heaters and use as per manufacturer's instructions.

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- ◇ Check your portable outdoor heaters before use and have serviced or replaced if required. Ensure that the area where you plan to use them is level, well ventilated and away from awnings and other combustible materials

NEVER use any outdoor heating or cooking equipment inside your home including those that use 'heat beads' or LPG as a fuel source. This type of equipment is not suitable for indoor use and can lead to a build up of lethal gases which could be deadly. Check the manufacturer's recommendations before use.

ELECTRIC BLANKETS

- ◇ Test your electric blanket before use by laying it on top of your bed, feeling the internal wires for any abnormalities and inspecting cords/controls for damage. Turn it on for 5 minutes and then feel for any uneven hot spots. If you notice any of the above the electric blanket should be replaced.
- ◇ Ready to pack your electric blanket away? Roll it for storage, folding can cause damage. Electric blankets are not designed to be used while sleeping. Consider adding additional bedding to keep warm if needed.

WHEAT BAGS

- ◇ Check your wheat bags for signs of wear and tear or scorching. Replace if needed.
 - ◇ Follow the manufacturer's instructions when heating, using and storing
- Wheat bags can easily ignite or burn if overheated and need to completely cool on a non-combustible surface before storing. They are only designed to be applied directly to the body and should never be used in bed or while sleeping.

VISIT FIRE.NSW.GOV.AU FOR MORE INFORMATION



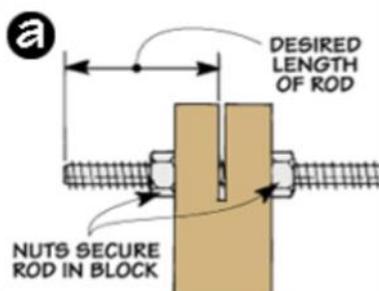
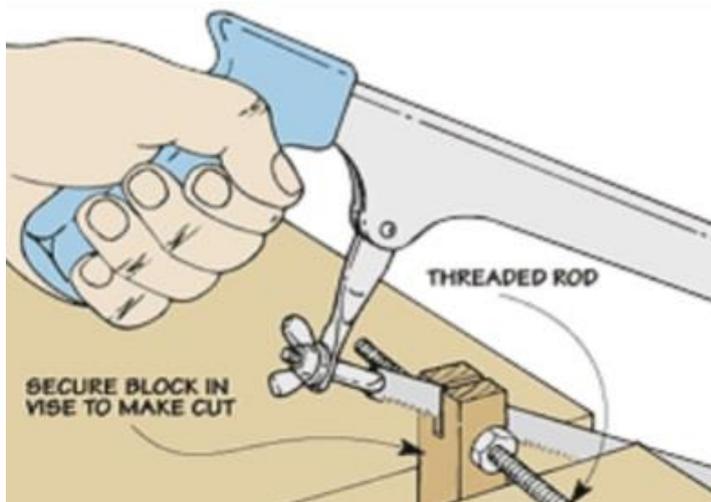
CUTTING THREADED ROD (OR CUTTING A BOLT)

Article provided by a member, source unknown

Cutting threaded rod is difficult as the rod spins as you try to make the cut or alternatively crush the threads when the jaws of the vice are too tight? Or it just adds up with a mangled less-than-straight cut.

? Here's a simple way to make this job a lot cleaner.

Instead of clamping the threaded rod directly in the vice, use an ordinary wood block that can be tightened in the vice. The rod passes through a hole drilled near the end of the block, and a thin kerf guides the hacksaw blade while the cut is made.



You can prevent the rod from spinning as you make the cut by threading a nut on each end until it's snug (but not tight) against the block (see 'a')

The nut remaining on the cut-off piece can be used to clean up the threads damaged by the saw by removing the nut (see 'b')





MORE OLD T-SHIRTS

We have enjoyed seeing some interesting T-shirts over the years, we actually have a rule against wearing offensive garments at the Waverley Shed. It is hoped that these will so offend you as to send us some more!!.

