



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!



WAVERLEY COMMUNITY MEN'S SHED

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

will be held at 1:00pm on Wednesday, 15th October, 2025
at the Men's Shed in the grounds of
The War Memorial Hospital, 125 Birrell Street, Waverley.

The Executive Committee and Board Members for 2025/264 will be elected at this meeting.

Members are invited to give consideration to stand for the various positions that need to be filled for the ongoing conduct of our Shed. This is particularly important with the day-to-day issues that we foreshadow will arise in this coming year.

Formal notices and all relevant forms will be made available by the Secretary.

DAYLIGHT SAVING

A busy night at Stonehenge as workers move
all the stones forward one hour ...

OCTOBER 5

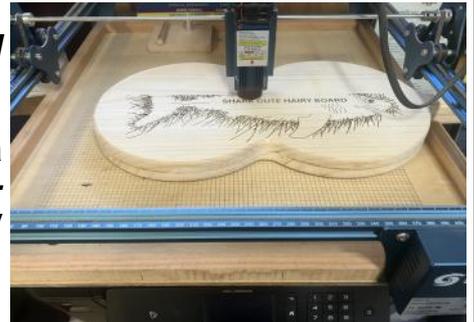




SHED GOINGS-ON (CURRENT PROJECTS ETC.)



Frank Fay is turning a *bowl* (left)



Nick Tyrrell is laser printing a sign on the base of his *charcuterie board* ("shark cute hairy board") (right)

Craig Rubenstein is making a *pen* from African Padauk, a very valuable red timber that turns purplish-brown on exposure to light. Drilling the hole to accommodate the spindle, Craig exposed fine grains of red timber (right)



Graham Ely is repairing a box that is used to store a large variety of rubber stamps that are used by children at a local pre-school centre.



The lid of the box also needed extensive cleaning (left)



Pierre Carrion always comes up with an unusual idea. Now he is making *puzzle placemats* (above), it keeps his visitors occupied while they are waiting for their food or drink!



Harry Jacobs is making *tea candle holders* for his daughter (left)

cont. p.3

cont. from p.2



There are 2 **chessboards** being made at the Waverley Shed, each using a different way to achieve their goal. On the left is the chessboard project of **Harry Jacobs**, while chessboard of **Albert Verdian** is shown on the right.



A **combined Shed project** that is being worked on by many members is the making of timber inserts with multitude of holes for the **native bee hives** for Waverley Council (left).

This is an extremely time consuming project, and we thank all those who are involved.

Tom Wolf's model of HMT Dunera (right) is nearing completion in time for delivery to the Dunera Museum in Hay.



The model is to go on display to commemorate the 85th anniversary in September 1940 of the arrival of the Dunera with internees who came to be known as "**The Dunera Boys**"

Mo Dhanoya and **Tony Mandarano** are making a **box** to transport the model safely to Hay, the box is to be clad with polystyrene to protect the model in transit.



Peter Black is making a **tombola (chocolate) wheel** (left)

Peter Robilliard is repairing his niece's **piano stool** (right)



Craig Rubenstein is helping **Peter Ulmer** by making a **smaller diameter dowel** (left)

cont. p.4

cont. from p.3

William Honeyball has been requested to carry out repairs/restoration work on a ***gilded frame*** of a mirror. As expected, this time consuming and intricate work is in the best hands possible.



After making the broken remains of the frame even, William is making a clay fill reinforced with armatures and wire, this is then sculpted into a shape similar to what it is thought the frame looked like in its heyday (we have to image of what it looked like).

Ian Dawes is making a bit of nostalgia ... a toy ***red London double decker bus***. Made with precision, it certainly brings back memories!



Peter Ulmer has wine glasses with broken bases, he has decided to make ***plywood bases*** for the stems (left)

Richard Cortis has made a ***boot jack*** to assist in taking off muddy boots before coming into the house (right)



**At my age,
I need
glasses.**



"DUNERA" MODEL FOR HAY MUSEUM

Over the past months (or is it years) we have reported that **Tom Wolf** was building a model of "**HMT Dunera**" for the **Dunera Museum in Hay**.

The model is scaled 1:350 and was constructed using the "bread-and-butter" method.

The model was requested by the Museum for the 85th anniversary of the arrival **Dunera** at Pymont on 6th September, 1940, and completed by Tom in August 2025.

The events surrounding this arrival was that the ship had just over 2,000 internees on board, they being German, Austrian and Italian "enemy aliens" who were arrested in Britain and sent to Australia as prisoners. Upon arrival, they were sent to an internment camp in Hay (hence the significance of the Museum).

Tom's interest in this event is that Alfred Felix Katz, his late father-in-law, was one of the internees, aged just 17 years and 2 weeks when the ship left Liverpool.

The model was urgently required for display, so as soon as it was completed, it was dispatched to Hay

These photos may be of interest to our readers.





NATIVE BEE HIVES FOR WAVERLEY COUNCIL

Waverley Council runs a Living Connections Program which helps residents create native habitat in their gardens. Waverley residents can receive native gardening advice and free native seedlings to help create a resilient garden that supports wildlife.

At the request of Vicky Bachelard as manager of the program for Waverley Council, members of the Waverley Shed made 50? native bee hive frames, photos adjacent show the part made frames, Peter Black (our organiser) and some of the finished frames, and Nick Tyrrell on his way delivering the frames to Vicky on 13 August, 2025.



The native bee hive frames made by the Waverley Shed, after they are filled with timber with multiple holes drilled into it, or bamboo tubes, provide nesting sites for native solitary bees who are impacted by destruction of natural habitat and pesticide use in urban areas.

The photos adjacent show how these frames could be filled by bamboo tubes, timber with multiple holes drilled into it, or a combination of bamboo and drilled timber to be filled by the residents and installed in their gardens.

The female bees crawl down the bamboo tubes and lay their larvae, before sealing the end and leaving them to hatch. Native bees produce very little honey when compared to the European bees, but they are most welcomed by gardeners as they pollinate the garden.



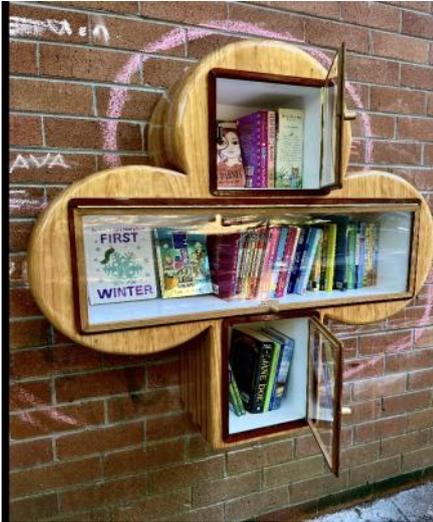
Photo courtesy of Waverley Council





BONDI GIRL GUIDES GET THEIR TREFOIL STREET LIBRARY

For many months we have been reporting on the *"trefoil street library"* that **Steve Weymouth** has been making for the Bondi Girl Guides, past copies of Scuttlebutt have a pictorial record of Steve's progress.



Steve has now completed the project and installed the street library on the walls of the Bondi Girl Guide Hall in Sir Thomas Hogan Reserve at Bondi. Guide "Mum". **Megan van der Weyer** was delighted with the project.

FANTASTIC WORK STEVE!!



GIRL GUIDE CAMP SIGN

Last month we reported that **Richard Cortis** was asked by the **Girl Guides** to cut a steel sign for one of their campgrounds, we now have photos of the sign as installed.



There's no such thing as a grouchy old person ...

once you get old you stop being polite and start being truthful



BIRD OF THE MONTH (5)

Australian Bustard - *Ardeotis australis*

Report and photos by Ian Dawes



Rather snooty looking birds with a stately manner, bustards can be found in grasslands or savanna, mainly in northern inland areas.

The one on the left was near Limmen National Park in the NT near the border with Qld..

Photo on right and far right is a male displaying with a distended air sac and erect tail in what seemed to be a forlorn hope of attracting a female., one of 21 bustards that were counted on a farm off the Mulligan Highway in the northern Atherton Tablelands, Qld



Limmen National Park contains a striking sandstone formation known as the Lost Cities – seen from a helicopter in the picture on the left



CORTIS TOOL ANIMALS

By Richard Cortis

These two sculptures were made using old saws, hammers, and some “found” bits of steel. The fired capsules from the SawStop make excellent heads for dinosaurs, dogs, etc. When those old tool boxes arrive on the door step of the Shed, many of those otherwise useless tools may get a new life as something totally different.

Many thanks for keeping them for me!



The car insurance claims investigator didn't believe me when I told him that I was just minding my own business when a mosquito hit my windscreen!!



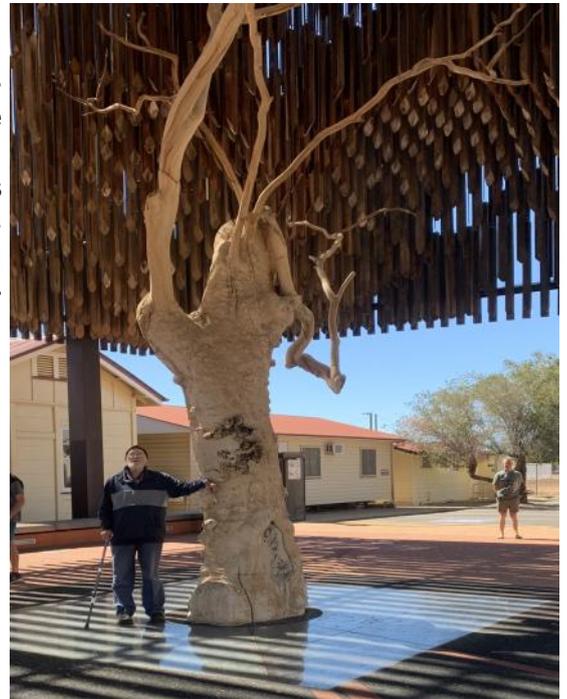
TRAVELLING NORTH WITH RICHARD CORTIS - Part 2

In Part 1 of our journey north we were in **Blackall, QLD**, and we moved on northwards from Blackall to **Barcaldine** (pronounced **BAR -CALL-DUN**), which is about a hundred kilometres north but only a few kilometres south of the **Tropic of Capricorn**. Suddenly, the weather changed and I was able to change into shorts.

Prior to this, the cold snap had us in long trousers and puffer jackets. When we got to Barcaldine, it was Sunday, so anything interesting was closed. And some things, like museums, were also closed on Monday.

Anyway, we visited the **Tree of Knowledge** which is now under a massive memorial structure after it was poisoned in about 2006. It was famous as a meeting place for shearers and workers during the great shearers' strike.

Not much to see now except for a dead tree under a very large rectangular box.



Having driven a hundred kilometres to get there, and having seen everything available, we drove back to **Blackall**, looking forward to a 35C pool

Out here, a hundred kilometres is not a lot. There is nothing between Barcaldine and Blackall. This is the sort of area where children on rural properties go to the

School of The Air. Each way, the only traffic on the road was road trains with three or four trailers, mostly carrying cattle and a roughly equal number of Grey Nomads towing caravans, and very few cars.

The next morning, we commenced our journey back south from Blackall, to **Tambo** where we stopped for coffee and morning tea (only a hundred kilometres)

From Tambo, we continued south, and we found a very pleasant camping area in **Augathella**, only a hundred kilometres south from Tambo. We arrived mid-afternoon and went for a very pleasant walk along the flood levee bank and then retired to the pub for a lemon squash.

We were free camping again (not plugged in to power) and the gas bottle ran out just when we needed the gas stove to make our morning coffee. A quick change to the full bottle and we had coffee and toast.

We moved on with the intent of travelling only to **Charleville** to do some shopping and, of course, fill the gas bottle before moving on, another hundred kilometres, to **Wyandra** where we planned to camp for the night. But Wyandra had died a long while ago and the only things left were the pub, the post office with general store and a camping area that was treeless, and windswept. The place held no interest for us and we did not want to stay there.

So, we moved on, another hundred kilometres, to **Cunnamulla**, a town that is quite busy and the caravan parks tend to fill up. So we tried to call them to make a booking but we were only able to leave messages. Then there was no phone signal from about ten kilometres out of Wyandra until about twenty kilometres out of Cunnamulla.

cont. p.10

cont. from p.9

The next morning, we did the usual tourist things. First on the list was another soak in the artesian bore baths that I have written about previously.

I just enjoy lolling about in the warm water and absorbing the view across the Warrego River. Well worth the effort if you are in the area.

Most importantly, don't forget to pack your swimmers and a towel as they can be a bit elusive in the local shops. Next was some food shopping but there is no Colesworth out here.

We did not stay in the town, opting to stay at the pretty caravan park on the Warrego River about three kilometres out of town. We worried about forecast rain, so we decided not to visit Charlotte Plains camp ground with its artesian lake and expansive camp ground.

We were told about its virtues but the brochure also mentioned a **\$200 fee** to extract your vehicle if you happen to get bogged on their road. Accordingly, we stayed an extra night in Cunnamulla, planning to move on to Bollon in the morning as rain was forecast.

We set off from Cunnamulla in gloomy drizzle that persisted, on and off, all the way to **Bollon** where we camped for the night in a pretty free camping site beside a creek. There was not much to see in Bollon because the pub burnt down in February and the cafe was in the pub. All that was left of town businesses was the shop that also sold fuel.

We went for a walk on the path along the creek, the rain held off for our walk but returned as intermittent rain showers during the night.

In the morning, we set off to travel to **Mungindi** via Dirranbandi rather than the longer route via St George. We have already been to St George once this trip. The back road direct to Dirranbandi, or "Dirran" (as the locals call it) was good but we did not see another vehicle until we were half a kilometre out of Dirran. However, we did see several flocks of emus, lots of feral goats and a few dozen kangaroos.

We normally cruise at about 85kph, plus a bit or minus a lot depending on road conditions and traffic. However, in the bush it is necessary to slow right down when passing because animals can be very unpredictable.

Emus tend to stand on the road and move off slowly but they can also run in front of vehicles. They are big birds and can weigh as much as a kangaroo and inflict as much damage in a collision. On the other hand, feral goats tend to take off into the bush as we approach.

Kangaroos are the big problem as they have absolutely no road sense. Like sheep, they all want to run across in front as you approach but can also take off into the bush.

Today, as we approached one group, they all, we thought, headed off into the bush on the right hand side of the road. Then there was a straggler which I first saw coming out of the bush on the left hand side, crossing our path at speed and only about three or four metres ahead.

A collision was inevitable, hitting us right in the middle of the front and bending our front number plate along with part of the plastic grille.

The kangaroo was dead but, we were lucky that we were driving a truck (our motor home is based on a Iveco truck chassis) because the vehicle was high enough to divert the poor 'roo underneath without causing major panel damage. And also, we had slowed to about 30kph at the time of the collision, but it still caused a very big bang.

There appeared to be no mechanical damage so we continued on to **Dirranbandi** where we had morning coffee at the bakery and further inspected the damage to our vehicle.

Collisions with kangaroos are frequent as evidenced by the number of dead ones beside the road. To reduce risk, we do not travel near dawn or dusk as this is the most dangerous time. After all this excitement, the remainder of the trip was uneventful.

Mungindi is unusual in that it straddles the border between Queensland and New South Wales. I am not sure, but I think it has two postcodes and, during day light saving, exist in two different time zones. I do not know which state owns and maintains the bridge over the river.



cont. p.11

cont. from p.10

When we arrived, we discovered that it was Show Day in town. Actually three days of country show and something unusual. **They had camel races!**

So, off we went to the showground about a kilometre out of town. As I understand, the arrangement, someone brings the camels and then some of the locals have a go at playing camel jockey.

The finish was somewhat more chaotic than the disciplined horse races you see on the TV, but it was heaps of fun to watch.

There were several races but we did not stay for the final.

Then, there was also judging of the utes. I am not sure of the criteria used by the judges but perhaps the number of driving lights and tall wagging antennae was important along with exhaust note and, of course, exhaust volume.

Trade exhibitors included a selection of very large drones that are designed for use in crop spraying and seeding. These were big and expensive looking but could also prove very labour saving around the farm. As the day wore on, we retired to the caravan park for coffee, a rest, and some more laundry.



Then we moved on to **Mendooran**, which is somewhere between Toorahweena and Dunedoo. Anyway, east side of the **Black Stump**.

Mendooran has a lovely grassed camping area just a short walk from the local pub. There is a basic shop a bit further along the main street.

The trip home via the Blue Mountains was uneventful, following roads we had travelled before, but we did pass a pleasant-looking caravan park in Dunedoo which we shall reference for a future escape.

And so, we got back to Sydney to more freezing weather... and rain!



TAMBO CHICKEN RACES

In the September issue of Scuttlebutt, **Richard Cortis** reported on his travels in Queensland, in particular the outback town of **Tambo**.

Richard reported that he and Dagmar, his wife, went to **Ben's Chicken Racing** that are held nightly from 1 April to 31 October at the **Royal Carrangarra Hotel** in **Tambo**. The publican set up a small arena in the yard behind the pub where the races are held.

There is one race daily at five o'clock. There are ten chickens, each dyed a different colour with food colouring. The publican then auctions off each chicken. The purchaser of the winning chicken gets portion of the purse and the remainder goes to support a bush children's charity. The chickens are encouraged to race by a toy electric car with a bucket of food on the back. Four loops of the track and the first chicken over the line behind the food car is pronounced the winner. Richard managed to video this hilarious event, to be found at:



<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1uxNUC6DvD73J5CwwKvtmcfSvGTAnPlfo/view?usp=drivesdk>



STILL MORE FAVOURITE T-SHIRTS

It seems that interesting T-shirts seen around are never-ending, we actually have a rule against wearing offensive garments at the Waverley Shed. It is hoped that seeing more of these will so offend you as to send us some more!!.

