



WAVERLEY COMMUNITY
MEN'S SHED INC.

SCUTTLEBUTT

WCMS MEMBERS' NEWSLETTER

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

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SEASON'S GREETINGS

Your Scuttlebutt Editor and the Committee of WCMS wish all our members, readers, and their families a Merry Christmas, a Happy Channukah, and a very happy New Year.

We wish that your Holiday Season be filled with the love and joy of your family and friends, lots of health, happiness, prosperity and well being, and that your stockings be filled with heaps of great stuff.

INTRODUCING "SOCIAL FRIDAY"

One of the most enjoyable things we do (although I think it is THE MOST enjoyable), is to gather daily at the Shed and have lunch together. These lunches are limited by time as many members want to go back to their project.

I have floated the idea around with some members, and we have decided to start an un-timed luncheon on the last Friday of each month,

**SOCIAL FRIDAY,
at 12:00 on 28 November
at Maroubra Seals.**

This venue overlooks the Beach, people can get together and eat (or not eat), have drinks (or not) and is a bright and sunny place on the 1st floor of the Club. You don't have to be a member to come along, and if there's a Club member along with you, you can get discounts on food and drinks. At lunchtime, there's no need to book, so just come along!!

It is also a great way to meet members who may attend on different days to you, and new members as well. So, put it in your Diary now and we'll see you there!



SUMMER BREAK DETAILS



The Waverley Men's Shed will close for
the Summer Break on

Wednesday, 17 December 2025

We will have our end of year break-up party on that day at 12:00noon,
for a sausage sizzle.

Please arrange with Mike Barker 0418978552 what foods you wish to
bring, otherwise your contribution of \$30.00 to buy meat, drinks etc will
be expected. **Attendance by RSVP to Mike only!**

The Shed will re-open on **Monday, 19 January 2026.**

SLED XMAS PARTY

WED 17TH DECEMBER 12PM

PLEASE BRING A DISH OR \$30.

AND INDICATE ON NOTICE BOARD

THANKS MIKE BARKER

0418978552.



SHEDDERS AT VICTORIA BARRACKS

All members were notified of an invitation to attend a Victoria Barracks tour in Paddington, but it may have been the late notification (could not be helped) that resulted in a group of only 5 members and spouses to attend.

The tour took place on 23rd October, 2025 and the tour guide presented an excellent historical tour of this famous establishment. **Those who attended had a great time.**



Members should be aware that such opportunities to participate in activities are notified, and that regrettably we don't always get an opportunity to notify the activity in Scuttlebutt, but the Secretary does send around notifications.



SHED GOINGS-ON (CURRENT PROJECTS ETC.)

Pierre Carrion continues to make innovative projects from bits and pieces of wood and other materials he finds, stuff discarded by everyone else. So, we now have a *platypus paperweight*, a *key and mail board*, and a *giant decorative dice* (below)



Ian Dawes has previously turned many and varied chess pieces at the Shed. It is now time to make the *chess board* to compliment those pieces (right). For anyone interested, they are *for sale!!*



Harry Jacobs continues to turn *pens* in time for presents at the end of the year, he is also making "gift cards" on the laser printer to accompany the pens (above)

New member **Julian Hamama** is making *chopping boards* for home. (right)



Living up to his reputation as the "Chairman", **Graham Ely** is making a full rebuild of a *unique chair* to keep a community member happy. (left)

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Back from his holidays, **Sid Lewinsky** was delighted to finish making *twenty pens* for David Berman. (right)



William Honeyball is restoring a *coffee table* for another happy community member (left)

After spending the past few years building models of 20th century ships, **Tom Wolf** is now once again *rigging the yards and spars* for an 18th century ship of sail at the Shed (right)



Steve Weymouth is making a *frame for his bathroom mirror* (left)



Stephen Fox is making a *box with a sliding lid* (right)



Albert Verdian is making a *chessboard* (above)



Mo Dhanoya has made a *"keepsake box"* for his wife's new-born great niece in Melbourne (left)

WCMS MONSTER GARAGE SALE

On 15th November, the Shed premises and the grounds of the War Memorial Hospital adjacent to the Shed were open to the public for a "Monster Garage Sale".



Members had been preparing for the event for weeks, including making posters and signs, and many hands were needed for setting up.

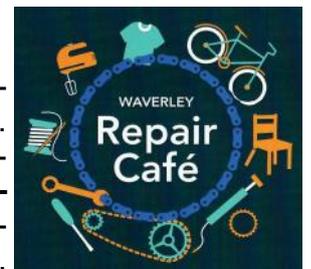


WE THANK ALL THOSE WHO HELPED OUT IN WHATEVER WAY THEY DID!!

WAVERLEY REPAIR CAFE

On 16 November, 2025, Tom and Sandy Wolf attended as volunteers at the **Waverley Repair Café** held at Bondi Public School.

They were there at the invitation of the convenor, **David Cutler**, to assist in making repairs to wooden stuff, and Tom made repairs to a chair and assisted with other repairs.



Other "repair stalls" at the Cafe included sewing (eg zipper repairs), jewellery repairs, repairs to toys and gadgets. Of 88 items brought along, 77 were successfully repaired, with 113kg of materials finding a second lease in life, potentially saving it from landfill.





FRAMERS VISIT THE SHED

On 28th October, Avi the Founder of Fantastic Framing visited the Shed to share his knowledge, advice and skills about framing, joinery, timber and wood work. He spent time also discussing the history of his business which now spans to 14 stores around Australia



Whilst that was interesting in itself, the Shedders were more interested in the framing methods utilised.

In particular, the use of the underpinning method and nails in the frames brought along to demonstrate the framing of the business were of interest.



We were offered an opportunity to visit the shop in Maroubra Junction and this is to be organised by the Committee.



AVOID BEING SCAMMED

In 2024, Australians lost **\$2.03 billion** to scams.

Scams target people from all walks of life and come in many forms – like fake emails, unexpected phone calls or online schemes.

Scammers are always **finding new ways** to gain your trust and steal your money or personal information.

These **3 simple steps** can help keep you safe from scammers:

1. **stop** – don't give your money or information to anyone if unsure
2. **check** – make sure the person or organisation you are dealing with is real
3. **protect** – act quickly if something feels wrong.

If you do spot a scam, report it.



A Doberman built at the Men's Shed



MENS SHED ACTIVITY AT MMV

Report by Tom Wolf

Tom and Sandy Wolf conduct an activity for the residents of **Mark Moran Vaucluse** on a fortnightly basis. The residents are in the nursing home environment at the village, and the activities are mainly run so as to take the residents away from their usual daily program which is often confined to their room or its surrounds. The activity takes place in the Art Room, a venue that is full of natural light with beautiful views out to the Tasman Sea..



With the October/November horse racing season, Tom decided to run a few simple activities, one of them being **horse racing "snakes and ladders"**, using numbered wooden horse figures as playing pieces, the pieces were made at the Waverley Shed by **Dave Colwell and Kenny Lazarus**.

The activity proved to be very successful, and a fortnight later (2 days after the Melbourne Cup), the same pieces were used for a number of races where the horses advanced to the finish line by moving squares in a straight line ahead, dependent on the roll of the dice. Tom and Sandy get a lot of satisfaction from running these activities.



TREASURE CHEST

Mo Dhanoya and Tony Mandarano made a **treasure chest** for a community member's great grandson with the words "**Logan's Treasure Chest**" neatly laser printed on the lid.



They asked **Richard Cortis** to help making a lock for it. As usual and without fail, Richard came up with a pair of angles made for the lock from brass, and he went so far as to even polish it!

A very satisfied customer (Logan's grandmother) picked up the box



BIRD OF THE MONTH

Stone-Curlews: This month, two related birds.

Article and photos by Ian Dawes

Beach Stone-Curlew (*Esacus magnirostris*)

Stone curlews are often referred to as “thick knees” for obvious reasons. Beach Stone-curlews are rather strange looking and shy. They are an uncommon inhabitant of coastal regions round much of Australia. Often seen in pairs - like these two marching in step at Lake Arragan and Red Cliffs north of Broom’s Head in Yuraygir National Park. We have seen a group on the mudflats off the Cairns esplanade and off Ashmore reef



Bush Stone-Curlew (*Burhinus grallarius*)

Bush stone curlews are more widespread, found more commonly in – grassy areas especially in the tropics. This one was wandering around one of the streets in Cairns (they are also to be found at the Cairns cemetery or in the Brisbane Botanic gardens right in the centre of the city).

At night the stone-curlews (both beach and bush species) emit loud screaming calls very much like a human in distress – very disturbing if you don’t know what it is.



THE ROCKING HORSE PROJECT

David Berman has brought a beautiful **rocking horse** to the Shed for repairs/restoration. The toy presents as if it were in good condition but just about every moving part requires a lot of TLC.

There are many parts that need replacement, and as there are no parts readily available, they will require to be reproduced/hand made.

Initially David sought help from others, but it would appear that he is now going ahead with the project on his own.



BEARINGS FOR THE ROCKING HORSE RESTORATION

After much deliberation as to how to make the bearings, it was decided to ask **Richard Cortis** for advice and immediately ... hey presto ... they had a solution! Richard agreed to make the bearings!

Shown are the bearings made by Richard that will polish up OK, but will need some plastibond or something similar to be bedded.

PROTOTYPE FRUIT BOWLS



As we know, **Mo Dhanoya** likes to make decorative objects that have some utility. He gets his ideas from various sources, including YouTube, and this is where this one originated.



Shown in the photos are 2 fruit bowls made with interconnecting rings and the base. It comes in 2 different sizes, all Mo needs now is to find a nice piece of wood!

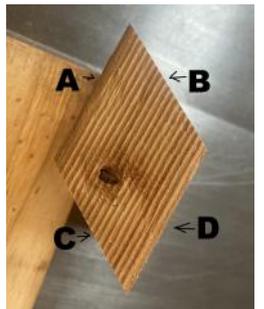
PROJECT IDEAS SNOWFLAKES



Tom Wolf got this idea from YouTube.

You need to make six symmetrical sticks with 30/60 degree sides that are cut, then each stick is grooved lengthwise, in readiness for assembly into a log, which is then sliced into individual snowflakes.

Starting with a 700x200mm timber (trim to size as necessary), cut the end off at 30 degrees. Cut 6x200mm pieces, all at 30 degrees to make a diamond shape..

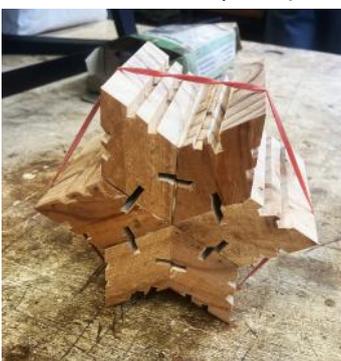


You now need to make a "pusher" (easier seen in the photo on left than described). The pusher captures the diamond shaped sticks to make cutting the grooves safe.

Reduce the height of the saw blade to about 5mm high and using the "pusher" cut a groove about 15mm from the pointed bit down the length side A of each slice, then repeat down the length of side B.



Now cut another groove about 25mm from the tip along the lengths of sides A and B (see photo on right)



Return the sawblade to 90 degrees, and cut a groove 10mm high in sides C and D (the remaining sides)

Now glue the 6 sticks together so that sides C and D form the centre of the hexagon, making sure that all the inside grooves line up, this will result in all side C and D being in contact. Hold it all together with rubber bands until the glue sets (not just dries).

The log can now be sliced into 3-4mm slices, making many individual snowflakes, with a hole near the top of any of the pointed bits.

The project can then be painted, personalised with a name, and hung on the Christmas tree.





SEPSIS

I recently received a distressed phone call from a friend who was at the ICU Unit at St. Vincent's Hospital. He told me he was suffering from Sepsis.

Sepsis is when your body has an extreme immune system (life-threatening) response to a severe infection—also known as blood poisoning. Although it can affect anyone, older people who suffer from chronic health conditions are more at risk.

Signs and symptoms of sepsis include:

- High fever
- Rigours (shivering)
- Increased heart rate
- Difficulty breathing
- Confusion
- Not needing to urinate (wee) all day or less often than usual
- A rash or blue, grey, pale or blotchy skin.

If you begin to get very sick, very quickly, you may have an infection, and it may be sepsis. Sepsis is a life-threatening condition that needs immediate medical attention.

Sepsis always starts with an infection, it may be bacterial, viral, or even fungal. Infections which may cause sepsis can be anywhere in the body, but common sites are often; chest, abdomen, urinary tract infections.

For serious symptoms, immediately call Triple Zero (000) or go to a hospital emergency department. Sepsis can cause death or permanent vital organ damage without treatment. Even if you have already seen a doctor, if you or your family member is still sick and not getting better, go to your nearest hospital emergency department, or call Triple Zero 000 for an ambulance.

Treatment for sepsis is most effective if initiated early!

Don't be afraid to ask "Could it be sepsis?" of the Triple 000 Call Operator.

Disclaimer: This article is not intended, nor should it be read, as medical advice. It is merely information to be used in recognising and responding to some symptoms and if in any doubt, medical advice and attention should be sought.

**Annoying the cook
will result in
STARVATION**



PILOT TRAINING

By Gary Sheppard



After receiving a few days' training at Byron Bay some time ago, as I was passing through Tamworth recently, I signed up with Neil Farr (**Gyrocopter** instructor) to get a few more sessions of training. Theoretical minimum required to get your licence is 15 hours but nobody does it in that time (unless they have prior aviation experience).



I'm 14 hours in and although I'm comfortable with standard flying and turning, it's the landings and take-offs where I'm not even close, and I suspect I'll take 40-50 hours (maybe more) to get proficient and comfortable and go solo.



The bulk of training now is just circuit after circuit, landing and take-off landing and take off, again and again. On the plus side, my sphincter is getting very toned

I'm still very wobbly and it will just be a matter of practice, practice, practice until I get good at it and it transforms into muscle memory. A bit like driving a car, you have to be at the stage where you don't even have to think about it.

All my instructors are amazing. at the end of our last session Neil took the controls and we

went for a ride across the canola fields which are in bloom at the moment.

We train in an open tandem two seat gyro because that exposes you more to the elements and you learn faster, unlike being in an enclosed cabin you feel the wind and get better "immersion" into the flying environment.

Eventually I'll intend to get my own gyro and I've set my sights on an AutoGyro Cavalon (side-by-side enclosed cockpit) and Neil took me for a "test drive" in his. **Super cool.** That's what I want to tour around Australia in ... **one day...**





WEE JASPER AND OTHER BACKROADS, OCTOBER'25

By Richard Cortis

It was starting to get a bit warm for travelling inland and we were looking for somewhere to go away from the heat. **Wee Jasper** sounded like an interesting name and we had not yet been there so we decided to pay a visit. This place is in the middle of nowhere, on the backroad between Yass and Tumut. We left Sydney fairly early and travelled down the Hume Freeway towards Yass. We have previously camped at **Jugiong** but it has developed into a bit of a tourist destination with the renovated George Hotel and the adjacent Long Track Café which is where we had a pleasant lunch before moving on to **Yass**.

The road beyond Yass was initially a picturesque two-lane rural road until it descended from the plain towards the **Murrumbidgee River** where it became a bit winding until we crossed the river and found our way back up to the plain. A bit further on the road descended down to another smaller river with an old timber truss bridge before rising up again to the plain.

Interesting driving but take care with your caravan! At Wee Jasper there is a General Store and , a few kilometres on, there is the **Reflections Caravan Park** which was actually a paddock by the creek with lots of trees and grassed spaces. It was low season so we found a pleasant spot a bit up from the creek and well clear of the other campers.



We spent two days camper there just walking and listening to the birds and looking at the creek. We were strongly advised that the road to Tumut was not appropriate for our motor home with instruction that we should exit via the road back to Yass, which we did.

Once back on the freeway, we decided on spending the night in **Gundagai** which has a pretty little caravan park on the banks of the Murrumbidgee. It is a nice place to stay so you need to book if you want a riverside spot. There is another caravan park in town and a free spot beside the creek near the museum. There may be another free spot by the river beyond the old railway station but I am yet to venture down to investigate.

Whilst in Gundagai, a visit to the historic **Niagara Café** is recommended. It is in the main street. A visit to the museum is also a highlight. It is located just by the bridge coming down from the main street.

We arrived in **Tumbarumba** in time to check into the caravan park and have lunch at a café in town. Tumbarumba is a pleasant little town with one functional hotel, several nice cafes a nice motel with a restaurant and a caravan park. There is a twenty kilometre cycling rail trail to nearby **Rosewood** which is good for both cycling and walking.



We saw snow on the mountain peaks from the road between Tumbarumba and Rosewood

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Just before Rosewood there is a plant nursery which is also the local café and the post office. There is also a shop that serves coffee at the end of the rail trail in the village. On the way back to Tumbarumba, we stopped at the **Pioneer Women's Hut** which is an unusual museum focused on the lifestyle and role of women in the early settlement. On the right is a photo of a genuine, brand new, chip heater for heating bath water.



It is really interesting and worth a couple of hours to browse. The visitor information centre is in town at the end of the main street is worth a visit as there is lots to explore.

Corryong, just across the Murray River in Victoria was our next stop. We did some shopping and had a coffee in town. Our visit to the **Man from Snowy River Museum** is highly recommended. We did not stay in town but moved on eight kilometres to the caravan park at **Colac Colac** (which is pronounced Clack-Clack by the locals).

The caravan park office has Clack Clack spelt out in a row of scrabble letters. This place is easily identified by the isolated row of twenty metre high poplar trees along one boundary and the grove of shade trees in the camping area. A flowing creek runs along one side of the camping area adding a bit to the general ambience.



The next day, we took a trip to **Khancoban** which was a town set up by the original **Snowy River Hydroelectric scheme**. There is not much to see in town after you have a coffee and a snack and a look at some sculptures and power station artefacts in the park. Pictured on the left is a turbine runner in the park at Khancoban. Essentially a water wheel, the turbine drives hydro-electric generators in a Snowy Hydro power station.

Khancoban probably has more to offer if you have a boat and like trout fishing. We drove across the dam wall, looked at the dam spillway, and headed back to Corryong and checked in at the caravan park in Clack Clack.

We moved on to **Tallangatta**, (pronounced Tal-ang-gatta) for some shopping and a coffee. We have stayed here before to go cycling on the high country rail trail which goes all the way to Wodonga via the old migrant hostel at Bonegilla which is worth a visit. Early in the afternoon we camped at a free camp spot on the shore of **Lake Hume** with shade in the afternoon and spectacular views over Lake Hume.

In the morning, we took the back road via **Thurgoona** to avoid both Wodonga and Albury and headed north up the free-way and then the Olympic Highway via **Gerogery, Culcairn, Henty, Yerong Creek, The Rock, Uranquinty** and on to **Coolamon** for the evening.



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Coolamon has a very well preserved heritage main street and welcomes visitors. There are cafes, the fire museum, and the cheese factory, all worth a visit. The caravan park is in the block behind the main street and beside the swimming pool. The IGA food store is just down on the corner. This town is off the beaten track so it is quiet but well worth a visit. We headed off to **June** to buy some supplies for our visit to our friend on a rural property near **Illabo**. We also stopped at the **June Liquorice and Chocolate factory** to stock up on gifts. Worth the stop.



There is also the massive railway roundhouse to visit but we have been there before. We parked in our friend's house yard and had a pleasant evening reconnecting with our friends. But take care in the bush! A casual wander in the machinery shed found us two metres from a **five foot long brown snake**.

In the morning, we waved bye-bye to our friends and headed off towards **Crookwell** with a brief stop in **Cootamundra** to use facilities and to have some brunch.

We checked in at the Crookwell visitor centre for a spot in the neat little caravan park just over the creek

at the bottom of the main street. It was a quiet night except for the hour of violent thunderstorm with wind and torrential rain.

The weather forecast for Sydney was 35C so we packed up as soon as the sun came up and headed home. Busy traffic on the freeway but we arrived home before it got properly hot



PROJECT IDEAS CAMPHOR LAUREL ROLLING PIN

This great idea was found on the website of Hornsby-Berowra Men's Shed



Whatever happened to our sexual relations?

I don't know. I don't even think we got a Christmas card from them this year.

GIANTS OF MANDURAH

Report by Tom Wolf



The **Giants of Mandurah** are six larger-than-life giant sculptures created by world-renowned recycle artist **Thomas Dambo**. Australia's only collection of these giant wooden sculptures are in Western Australia, with 5 located in the Mandurah area, and 1 located in Perth.

I visited the 3 accessible Giants in Mandurah, the other 2 are 3.5 km walk each way, much too far for me



1. **Yaburgurt Winjan Cirkelstone**, a giant named after the esteemed Binjareb Noongar leader George Winjan.

2. **Seba's Song** is a Giant that is easy to find, but has his back to you and is looking out to sea. It can be seen from a distance from the other side of the bay.



3. **Santi Ikto** is the gentle giant perched atop a dune at Halls Head overlooking pounding surf on the beach below

4. The only Giant that is not located in Mandurah, is the Giant in a park in suburban **Subiaco, in Perth**.

It is understood that these displays will be removed at some time in 2026, so if you have a chance to visit WA, your opportunity to see the Giants may be limited in time!





HAVE YOU SEEN THESE 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!!

