



WAVERLEY COMMUNITY
MEN'S SHED INC.

SCUTTLEBUTT

WCMS MEMBERS' NEWSLETTER

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

Volume 7 Issue 2

FEBRUARY 2026

Editor: Tom Wolf <newslettereditor@waverleycommunitymensshed.org.au>

Website: <http://waverleycommunitymensshed.org.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!



ASSISTANT EDITOR WANTED

"Scuttlebutt" is now in its 7th year of publication, over the years many readers have expressed their satisfaction and congratulated me, as the Editor for the way this "Banner" of the Waverley Shed has been published, and its contents.

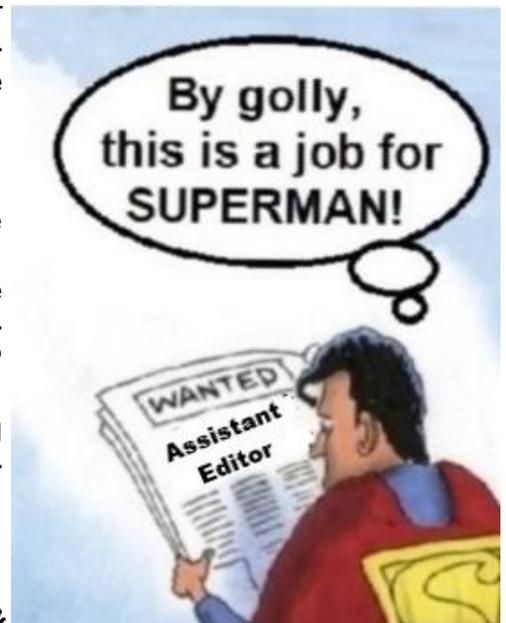
For all those years, I have done all the work singlehandedly, compiling contributions and editing them into format. Despite requests for assistance, there has been none forthcoming.

As many of us get older, our capacity to keep up the same level diminishes, and I am sad to say, my capacity is included. I have no alternative but to slow down. NOT GIVING UP ALTOGETHER!!

I am not looking for someone to take over, but I am looking for someone who will assist, and learn the publication process that has been developed.

PLEASE GIVE THIS REQUEST YOUR SERIOUS CONSIDERATION IN THE SPIRIT IN WHICH IT IS MADE

Tom



NEXT "SOCIAL FRIDAY"

After the success of this social activity in late November, members and friends are invited to meet again for

**SOCIAL FRIDAY,
at 12 noon on 30 January
at Maroubra Seals.**

This venue overlooks the Beach, those attending 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!



SAVE THE DATE!!

The Committee of the Waverley Community Men's Shed is considering the calling of an Extraordinary General Meeting to discuss and determine the changes to the Constitution as to allowing women to be members of the Shed

There are still some formalities to be attended to, so the formal Notice of Meeting cannot be circulated, however it is intended that the meeting is to take place on

**EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING,
at 2:00pm on 18th February 2026
at the Shed, WMH at Waverley.**

Please put this date aside (and note it in your Diary) until you receive a formal notification of the meeting being held on this (or any other) date.



LASER ENGRAVER

Have you ever wanted to see how technology and woodworking come together? Now's your chance! Our Shed has a **Laser Engraver** available and ready to use and we'd like to invite members to come and learn how it works.

A Laser Engraver is a machine that burns designs into wood, plastics, and other materials with incredible precision. You design your project on a computer, and the engraver does the rest, following your design perfectly every time. It's a fantastic way to create detailed signs, customise furniture and decorative pieces with professional results.

We're fortunate to have **Steve Weymouth**, one of our experienced Shed members, who knows his way around the Laser Engraver and is happy to show others how to use it. If you'd like to learn, please put your name on the list on the whiteboard, and we will hold a course to take you through how it operates (from design to print) at the Waverley Shed,

1:00pm, Wednesday, 11th February 2026

Whether you're curious about technology, want to try something new, or are keen to add a new skill to your woodworking toolkit, the Laser Engraver is a great place to start.

Make a booking, come along, have a look, and see what this amazing machine can do!



MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

It is that time of the year again, current memberships expire on 28 February, so your renewals should be completed by then!!

PLEASE REMEMBER that your insurance is part of your membership fee and it is vital that your insurance be current at all times!!

The Renewal Form can be found at <https://form.jotform.com/240160849846867>.

The completed Form and payment is a condition of renewal. Payment can be by Direct Debit; credit card or cash.

UNFINANCIAL MEMBERS ARE NOT ALLOWED TO USE THE MACHINES



**THE WAVERLEY MEN'S SHED
NEEDS YOU
TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP
NOW!**

Uniting

Uniting War Memorial Hospital
invites you to a face-to-face seminar on

FUTURE PLANNING

Monday 2nd February 2026, 12:30pm to 2:45pm

War Memorial Hospital Day Centre, 125 Birrell St Waverley

- Information on staying in your home vs moving to residential aged care
- Effects of changes to the Aged Care Act
- Find out about power of attorney, enduring guardianship, and advanced care plans

Entry from 12.00pm, light lunch will be provided.

Bookings essential: Catriona 93690215

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



ARTICLES WANTED!

**Maybe you have a hobby.
Maybe you have done home repairs.
Maybe you have repaired furniture.
Maybe you've visited interesting places.**



WE WOULD LIKE TO KNOW WHAT YOU ARE DOING



**How did you do it?
What made you do it?
Do you have any special tricks?**

**We welcome articles for publication in Scuttlebutt.
If possible, the article should be well documented with high resolution photographs (your phone is good enough!).
Send to tom@aces.net.au**

I was always taught to respect my elders ...

but it keeps getting harder to find one!





WAVERLEY MEN'S SHED = VACCINATION CENTRAL

Katie from Vaxconnect visited the Shed on 15th December and gave quite a few Sheddors **free boosters** for one or more of **shingles, covid and pneumococcal vaccines**.

Those who missed this opportunity should be informed that

Katie is located in the **Boronia Room**, at the **Morgan Building (WMH)** every **Monday** and is available to give vaccination boosters.



SUPER-SMALL PARTS SANDER

If you like to make wooden toys, or you like to make model ships, cars and planes, one trick is to use emery boards (the kind your wife uses to file her fingernails) to sand small parts.

Emery boards come in different sizes, and some are more abrasive than others, so keep an assortment on hand.



This is why Germans don't play Scrabble.



SHED GOINGS-ON (CURRENT PROJECTS ETC.)



Peter Black was requested to make some *end-grain chopping boards*. He worked on it before the Summer break before finishing them recently (left)

Nick Tyrrell has put legs on a *chess board* to make it into a table.



Nick proves that you can take the boy out of New Zealand, but you can't take New Zealand out of the boy!! He is holding two carved kiwis (above right and far right)



It seems fashionable to make *chess boards*. Here, **Frank Fay** is also making a chess board. (left)

Pierre Carrion is making *wooden pendants* to be worn by his daughters (right)



Last month we reported that **Harry Jacobs** was making *chopping boards* out of a tree stem (see photos below from last month). Now he is nearing completing the first one (below right)



New member **Peter Keeda** is restoring a *dining table top*, after sanding back he is applying sanding sealer (left)

Albert Verdian is turning a full set of *chess pieces*, here he is turning a rook (castle) (right)



cont. p.6

cont. from p.5



Frank Fay is making a **picture frame** with metal corner joints (left)



Sid Lewinsky is repairing a **small picture frame** for his wife (right)



Possum box making has resumed for 2026. For many years, the Waverley Shed has been making hundreds of possum boxes for **WIRES**, and the general community. **Peter Robilliard** and a team of members is assisting **Peter Black** (who manages the project) (right)



PROJECT IDEAS

Coffee machine 'Barista stand'

This great idea was found on the website of City North Men's Shed



DO YOU HAVE A HAMMER THAT ALWAYS HITS YOUR THUMB?

If you are always striking your thumb with a hammer while trying to put a nail into the wall, this is a simple hack to overcome the problem.

You can hammer nails without causing injury to yourself, all you need is a clothes-peg that can be used to hold the nail in place with your free hand (and keeping it out of the way), while you strike the nail with the hammer held in your other hand.

So, no need to practise all those swear words any more!!



FUTURE TOOTHPICK made at the Waverley Shed



THE ANATOMY OF A SCAM

By Clif Munro

The extent that criminals will go to, in order to trick their targets online.

Like most people, I occasionally buy stuff on line.

I like to think that I am fairly watchful when buying directly by using listings from online searches.

Sometimes, we use online searches **only to find out** that we will have to look offshore, due to, say, an insufficient range of goods being available locally, or perhaps, the local sellers are few and therefore they can greatly inflate their prices or make the ubiquitous '*postage and handling*' charges very unreasonable.

For whatever reason, once we go offshore, it is very important to check the **bonafides** of the seller. Note- I'm discussing sellers where there is **no intermediary** such as Ebay; Temu; Amazon and so on, who keep a watch on their advertisers.

Here's an example:

As a loved Grandad, you think about creating something hands-on for the grand-children (and perhaps you too) to play with when they visit. You decide to make a child-friendly model railway in the garden – not too sophisticated but able to be 'driven' along a track. The most popular garden railway is something called '**LGB**' and oh-my, how expensive it is, especially in Australia.

But '**googling-around**', you find there are many **offshore** listings for 'LGB' – literally hundreds, and you may also find that there are very good-looking 'used' trains available, so you start clicking **listings** and are pleased to find what appears to be a company trying to develop cash-flow with a **Half-Price Sale!** . It's in the **United States** and you've read how many companies there are experiencing difficulties **due to the contracting economy**. And they helpfully give you a **handy link** to click.

You find the **catalogue** is enormous – over **1800 online pages** of every conceivable size of train engine and rolling stock imaginable. Every listing shows a picture and description and a struck-out RRP (recommended retail price), together with a 'condition' rating- *Fine/Excellent/Very Good/ Good/For Parts Only* – and very reasonable prices. Even allowing for the USD-AUD difference and freight, you decide you will be very much ahead.

Time for your **due-diligence**.

The **link** is marketplace.trainworld.com. You note there is a street address- 5425 Taussig Rd, Bladensburg, Maryland 20710, United States; a telephone number and customer-service email. So you check out trainworld.com and they are a large, long established discount model train store. You check reviews- All Good!

You've decided what sort of train you want and spent a lot of time researching and found just what you want, and the price is very reasonable – so reasonable, that you want to snap it up before it's sold to someone else. So you place your items in the Cart and proceed to conclude the sale.

You always use PayPal* when buying offshore as it places an intermediary between the seller and your bank details, but after clicking on the **PayPal button**, you are confused when you receive a message: '*Something went wrong at our end. Please try again later.*' Subsequent attempts come back with the same message over the next few hours.

Then comes a message: '*We think we've fixed the problem. Try now.*' But then the '*something went wrong*' message returns.

cont. p.8

cont. from p.7

A little later, a new message: 'You can enter your credit card details to complete the purchase' with a new **Pay Now** button. You find this a helpful service by the company. When this is completed, you receive a receipt with all the details of your purchase and a Tracking Number. Delivery is expected to take 10 days.

Then something happens.

Two days after your purchase, your monthly credit card **statement** arrives, and when you check your transactions **there is a payment of USD120.00** – not the amount you had authorised. Not only is it the **only** USD payment, but the payee is **Payfly*MC-Gsuits.Shop Hk Hkg** !

By Googling *MC-Gsuits HK*, you will find most scam-reporting websites say the store '**.. is a fraudulent online store ...**'

You have been scammed.

Unpacking where you missed a red flag:

1. The sheer size and detail in the catalogue reinforced your assumption that you were dealing with a store needing to liquidate quickly. You could not conceive that a scam would be so sophisticated.

2. The scam link had a 'dot' following 'com' but you checked out a legitimate company website (without the dot following com). Scammers place dots in ways to make URL's (or uniform resource locators [ie. the web address]) look like familiar genuine websites. Always compare purchase web links (including placement of dots) against the legitimate company web address.

3. When PayPal* appeared to have continued technical problems, you allowed anxiety about losing the deal to overule your caution. Anxiety is a 'pressure' tactic used a lot by scammers eg 'only one left' or 'in 3 shopping carts' and so on.

4. The 'helpful' switch from PayPal* to offer a different way to pay with credit card details lulled you into thinking that the seller was trying to assist you - when it was a deliberate act to get your banking information.

Other things you might have done when problems with the 'sale' began to occur:

5. Look up the street address on 'Google Maps'. (It's a house, not a commercial address)

6. Cross-check the 'listing' phone number against the legitimate business you checked out.

7. Look for a Facebook or Instagram profile (businesses use social media to boost sales and are subject to Meta™ oversight).

8. Look up how long the social media account has operated and think twice if it's only recent.

In conclusion:

Scamming, and particularly Online Scamming, is not just big, it's HUGE.

Finding innovative ways to apply scams is a day job for some people.

If you have doubts about a purchase, break the cycle by chatting with someone who is 'tech savvy' before concluding a purchase.

Most banks will tell you to contact the business to ask for a refund, but if the business doesn't legitimately exist, you are on your own.

Note* There are other equally good organisations for making secure payments on line as well as PayPal (which was used here only as an example).

The above example is based on actual scam reports as at January 2026.

Editor's Note. *Our readers will be well aware that we, at Scuttlebutt, have been warning our readers about sophisticated scams ever since we started publishing this newsletter, now over 6 years ago. Reading Clif's experiences and his exasperation at chasing loose ends is an object lesson to us all.*



WCMS EQUIPMENT UPDATE

Our borrowed long bed Vicmarc lathe has gone but in its place we have a Carbatec 'desk top' lathe.

To set it up, our Shedders built a benchtop and a worktable (see photo where it is sitting on a new bench and table with shelving for use by our pen makers).

It is hoped that the desk top lathe can be used by members at demonstration events, the aim would be to promote woodwork/woodturning, attract new members and increase our profile.



WHO INVENTED WD-40?

WD-40 (Water Displacement, 40th formula) is a penetrating oil, its formula was invented for the **Rocket Chemical Company** in 1953 (the company has been renamed as the **WD-40 Company**), an American company based in San Diego, California. It is the manufacturer and the trademark holder of the product. The formula was kept as a trade secret but has never been patented

The product acts as a lubricant, rust preventive, penetrant and moisture displacer that became available as a commercialized product in 1961

There are specialized products that perform better than WD-40 in many of these uses, but WD-40's flexibility has given it fame as a jack of all trades.

There is controversy as to the identity of the inventor, the WD-40 company website and other books and newspapers credit **Norman B. Larsen**, the president of the Rocket Chemical Company as the inventor, but others credit **Iver Norman Lawson**, an employee of the company, as the inventor.

It is claimed that Lawson invented the product that he then sold to the company for \$500 and Larsen merely marketed the product, a spray, composed of various hydrocarbons, that was originally designed to be used to protect the outer skin of the Atlas missile from rust and corrosion.





WHOOOPS! WENT TOO FAR!!

Has this happened to you? You are turning a bowl and you have just about finished, but you decide to go just a little deeper? Your project and your hopes crumble at the same time! With our carpentry experience we all know you are supposed to measure twice and cut once. Turning bowls on the lathe is no different!

Sometimes you need not despair, sometimes you can save the project by making a plug, but this is almost the exception



WHO'S THIS MEMBER?

Here we have a member of the **Waverley Men's Shed** photographed when still at high school aged about 16 years old.

Entries should be sent to the Editor: tom@aces.net.au

BTW, he has changed, and he's not played the trombone ever since!



**Annoying the cook
will result in
STARVATION**



BIRD OF THE MONTH

Article and photos by Ian Dawes

Long-tailed Finch (*Poephila acuticauda*)

Very elegant finch found in the northern savannah parts of WA and the NT. This one was at a food bowl at the Roebuck Bay Bird Observatory on the edge of Roebuck Bay just south of Broome, WA. There are two subspecies of this finch distinguished by the colour of their beaks, the ones from WA have a yellow beak, while it is red for those in the NT.

Roebuck Bay is a fantastic place to see shorebirds, since there are often very large numbers feeding on the bay's tidal flats in preparation for the long journey to their breeding grounds in the Northern Hemisphere, or after they arrive back from as far afield as Siberia. If you ever visit Broome, Roebuck Bay is a very worthwhile place to visit, not only for the birds, but also for the magnificent scenery along the coastline. Makes a welcome change from watching people ride on camels.



WHO INVENTED THE PHILLIPS HEAD SCREW?

If you answer Mr Phillips, you are **WRONG!!**

Although named after **Henry Frank Phillips**, an American businessman, he was not the inventor of this design of screws that prevented the driver from slipping out. Previously, screws were "slotted", but this allowed the straight edged screwdrivers from slipping from the groove, often damaging the timber around it.

The "crosshead" screw was invented by **John P. Thompson** who patented the design in 1932 (and the screwdriver in 1933), but was unable to commercially manufacture or market the invention.

The importance of the crosshead screw design lies in its self-centering property, useful on automated production lines that use powered screwdrivers.

Phillips purchased the patent from Thompson in 1935 (and refined the design), but his major contribution was in driving the crosshead concept forward to the point where it was adopted by American Screw Company (screwmakers) and then automobile companies.

First used by General Motors in their 1936 Cadillac, by 1940, 85% of US screw manufacturers had a license for the design



ESMERALDA VISIT AUGUST'25



Report and photos by Tom Wolf

Esmeralda is a steel-hulled four-masted barquentine of the Chilean Navy which has a long and proud history of training Chilean sailors and is a right of passage for Chilean Navy personnel.

This stunning tall ship came to Sydney in August 2025, and I was able to board her during that visit. The best way to report on this visit is by the photos that I took.



cont. p.13

cont. from p. 12



BAR STOOLS

By Tom Wolf

Recently, I received the photo on the right from a friend that show a pair of bar stools that they found on their travels in Longreach, Queensland. **WHAT FUN!!**



It reminded me of a photo (on the left) of bar stools that were in Vol.1 Issue 5 of Scuttlebutt in May 2020.

Does anybody have any more pics like this?



I remember years ago when
all I wanted to be was older

I WAS WRONG!!!



USING CYANOACRYLATE (or CA) (or as most will know it, SUPERGLUE)

by Tom Wolf

I am almost too scared to write this article for fear of the follow-up mail I am likely to receive (so please, no follow-up mail). Use of superglue is contentious. I once heard an “expert” asked why he used 2 pack epoxy instead of superglue, and his answer was that he is waiting for another 50 years to see if superglue retains its bond before he answers the question as he was satisfied with the fact that other glues do bind for long periods. Certainly, we cannot vouch for CA’s longevity.

Nevertheless, there are times when the use of an instant (or almost instant) glue has benefits and therefore CA is the only useful glue to be used despite the potential risks. So, here are a few hints I have learned over the years of using CA:

Cyanoacrylate is a moisture sensitive product and should be stored in a dry place. Also, storage in a cold place will extend the life span of the glue. In fact, when cyanoacrylates are maintained in a cool, dry location such as a refrigerator at a temperature of about 10°C prior to opening, the shelf life will be extended to a minimum of 15 months, but care must be taken when ready to use, as placing the product in cool, then hot temperatures will create condensation. After removing the product from the refrigerator, it is best to let them sit until they reach room temperature.

So, you are now ready to use the CA. The bottle or tube containing the glue will have a narrow mouth, but getting the glue to the right spot and in just the right quantity can be tricky. There are commercially available applicators which may avoid your fingers being stuck together (at best) but here is a description of a simple and effective applicator that can be made at home:

1. Take a sewing needle with a small eye, cut or grind off the top of the eye. Then embed the pointed end of the needle into the end of a dowel or a pin-vice.
2. Drip a small amount of CA onto a piece of aluminium foil or cellophane (it can last like this for hours unless it comes into contact with moisture).
3. Dip the cut off needle head into the pool of CA and apply to where necessary and wick them into the project that you wish to adhere
4. If the needle “dispenser” becomes clogged or messy, burn off the dried glue with a flame or scratch it off with a knife

If parts do not fit tightly or cannot be held together conveniently, use CA glue and an accelerator. Squeeze the dispenser until a small drop of CA forms at the tip. Apply to one of the parts to be adhered and press the parts together. You will have several seconds to move the parts to their proper position then, while maintaining the position, apply accelerator to the seam. The CA will harden instantly and can be released. Allow the parts to be left undisturbed for three hours for complete cure.

Accelerators or “kickers” are available commercially and are recommended. If however you wish to make your own:

1. Fill gap with baking soda (sodium bicarbonate) and then drip CA onto the baking soda
2. 1 teaspoon Baking soda (sodium bicarbonate) dissolved in ¼ cup of water and sprayed onto the project (but it will make the joint white in colour and difficult to sand)
3. Alternatively a small drop of acetone (or nail polish remover) can be used as an accelerator, using a similar applicator as described above.

Good luck, let’s hope you get the results you seek, but don’t forget that you may need to try your process on something other than your valuable project first.

**AND DON’T FORGET, YOU ARE USING CHEMICAL PROCESSES AND REACTIONS, SO
WORK SAFELY IN A WELL VENTILATED AND CLEAN ENVIRONMENT.**

THAT'S WHEN THE FIGHT STARTED!

My wife and I were watching Who Wants To Be A Millionaire while we were in bed, I turned to her and said, 'Do you want to have Sex?' - 'No,' she answered.
I then said, 'Is that your final answer?' - She didn't even look at me this time, simply saying, 'Yes..'

So I said, "Then I'd like to phone a friend."
And that's when the fight started...

My wife sat down next to me as I was flipping channels. She asked, "What's on TV?"
I said, "Dust."
And then the fight started...

My wife and I were sitting at a table at her high school reunion, and she kept staring at a drunken man swigging his drink as he sat alone at a nearby table. I asked her, "Do you know him?"
"Yes", she sighed, "He's my old boyfriend. I understand he took to drinking right after we split up those many years ago, and I hear he hasn't been sober since."
"My God!" I said, "Who would think a person could go on celebrating that long?"
And then the fight started...

When our lawn mower broke and wouldn't run, my wife kept hinting to me that I should get it fixed, but, somehow I always had something else to take care of first, the shed, the boat, making beer.. Always something more important to me. Finally she thought of a clever way to make her point.

When I arrived home one day, I found her seated in the tall grass, busily snipping away with a tiny pair of sewing scissors. I watched silently for a short time and then went into the house. I was gone only a minute, and when I came out again I handed her a toothbrush.
I said, "When you finish cutting the grass, you might as well sweep the driveway."
The doctors say I will walk again, but I will always have a limp.

Saturday morning I got up early, quietly dressed, made my lunch, and slipped quietly into the garage. I hooked up the boat up to the van and proceeded to back out into a torrential down-pour. The wind was blowing 80 kph, so I pulled back into the garage, turned on the radio, and discovered that the weather would be bad all day.

I went back into the house, quietly undressed, and slipped back into bed. I cuddled up to my wife's back; now with a different anticipation, and whispered, "The weather out there is terrible."

My loving wife of 5 years replied, "And, can you believe my stupid husband is out fishing in that?"

And that's how the fight started...



The Senility Prayer

*Grant me the senility to forget
the people I never liked anyway, the
good fortune to run into the ones I do,
and the eyesight to tell the difference.*



EVEN 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!!

