



WAVERLEY COMMUNITY
MEN'S SHED INC.

SCUTTLEBUTT

WCMS MEMBERS' NEWSLETTER

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

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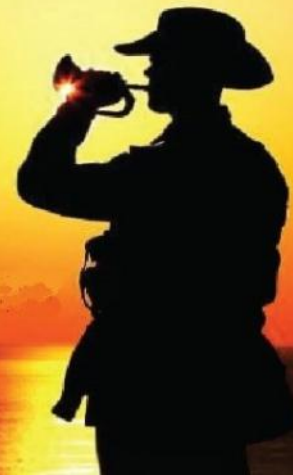
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IF YOU ARE NOT WELL, YOU ARE NOT WELCOME AT THE SHED!



ANZAC DAY
APRIL 25



SHED CLOSURE

The Shed will be closed for Easter Monday and the declared a Public Holiday for ANZAC Day, so,

the Waverley Shed will be closed on:
Monday, 6 April, 2026 (Easter), and
Monday, 27 April, 2026 (ANZAC Day)



WAVERLEY SHED EGM

An **Extraordinary General Meeting** was held at the Waverley Shed on **25th February 2026** to determine a Special Resolution which was to change the Shed's Constitution to allow membership of the shed to include women. This Motion was to formalise an earlier vote taken (by show of hands).

Without repeating each amendment that was required, members should be aware that the **changes involve replacing the word "men" with the word "members" and deleting any reference to only "natural males" being permitted to membership, replacing it with "natural persons"**.

16 members attended and a further 8 members voted by proxy, and the affirmative vote was passed unanimously, so the Motion came into effect immediately.



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

As of Wednesday 25th February the only Men's Shed in the eastern suburbs (between Sydney Harbour and Botany Bay) has changed its constitution to allow women members.

This is the right thing to do in the modern, all inclusive world, and it should increase the utilisation of the important community resource.

In addition the Men's Shed is going to commence delivering an **Introductory Woodwork course** for women, starting on **7th May**. The course will run over six weeks. There will be a \$60 charge to cover insurance and consumables. The course will run on Thursdays between 9.30am and 12.30. **Places are very limited.**

The current plan is to have the Shed open on Mondays and Tuesdays for men and on Thursdays and Fridays for women with Wednesdays being a dual gender day. The issue with the Thursday and Friday opening is that we need to find women who can become qualified to take the role as supervisor for those sessions.

All inquiries to secretary@waverleycommunitymensshed.org.au

Peter Charlton



BATTERY DISPOSAL

Even flat batteries have enough charge to spark a fire

The worst way to dispose of any battery is to toss it in with your regular household rubbish or recycling.

Batteries have started fires when crushed in garbage trucks and waste centres. **Never bin a battery.** Instead, take it to one of the drop-off points in your area so it can be safely recycled.



FINAL REMINDER



TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP NOW!!



INTRODUCTORY WOODWORKING COURSE FOR WOMEN

The 6 week long Introductory Woodworking Course for Women will be held at the Shed starting on Thursday, 7th May, 2026 from 9:30am to 1:30pm. The Course is fully subscribed with excellent applicants, and we look forward the more complete utilisation of the Shed's programmes shortly.



CONGRATULATIONS HARRY

Harry Jacobs is 96 years old and attends the Waverley Shed on just about every day the Shed is open Harry was recently awarded a significant honour when he was named the "**Local Senior of the Year**", and received his award at Government House on 17th March, 2026..

**A WELL DESERVED HONOUR,
CONGRATULATIONS HARRY!**



LASER ENGRAVER COURSES #2 & #3

Steve Weymouth conducted two more courses on the use of the laser engraver on **4th March and 11th March 2026**, and **Jeff Silberbach; Eric Wong; Rodger Jamieson, William Honeyball and Albert .Verdian** completed these courses

The next course is set for **15th April**, if you are interested, please ensure that you put your name on the whiteboard!!



BRAINFREEZE

Who needs a ladder?



IMPORTANT NOTICE FOR ALL USERS OF MACHINES IN THE MACHINE ROOM

Most of the machines in the Machine Room are connected to **Dust Collectors**, particularly the **Thicknessing Machine**. As members are aware, whenever **ANY** machine that is connected to the Dust Collectors is used, the Dust Collector **MUST** be **TURNE**D ON, and then **TURNE**D OFF when usage is stopped.

Additionally, users of machinery, particularly the **Thicknessing Machine** (which creates the most collectable dust) are reminded that they **MUST CHECK** the condition of the Dust Collector to which the machine to be used is connected, to ensure that a collecting bag is installed and is **NOT FULL**, before starting to use of the machine.

DO NOT START ANY MACHINE WITHOUT CHECKING THE CONDITION OF THE DUST COLLECTOR TO WHICH THE MACHINE IS CONNECTED!!

FAILURE TO DO THIS SIMPLE TASK MAY RESULT IN THE MEMBER'S PERMISSION TO USE THE SHED'S MACHINES MAY BE AFFECTED!!



THE "BONDI CHANNUKIAH"

Tom Wolf made concept design of a special Chanukah Menorah, which incorporates the Channukah lights with the Temple Menorah lights sharing a Shammash (servant light), so it has 9 actual candle lights and 6 virtual flames, making a total of 15 flames in memory of those who lost their lives at **Bondi Beach** on **14 December, 2025**.

The design is to be made for the **Centre of Activity (COA)**, the Jewish agency set up to enrich the lives of Sydney's Jewish Seniors, which lost 4 of its members in the terrible anti semitic terror atrocity.

It is called the "**Bondi Channukiah**".



Customer Service:
"Is it plugged in?"



Customer:
"DUH ... YES! Do you think I'm an idiot?"



SHED GOINGS-ON (CURRENT PROJECTS ETC.)



After his recent painful experience with kidney stones, **Graham Ely** has returned to the Shed just in time to help a community member with restoring a set of *chairs*. (left)



Ray Tajer has made a *model ship* as a representation of the Coogee SLSS rescue boat and its rowers (above)



Measure twice, cut once! **Peter Robilliard** is making *baby pos-sum boxes* (left)



Peter Black's latest project is a custom made *table* for a community member. As seen, the table top is cut, the rest is coming (above)



Mo Dhanoya is making a "*birth box*" for his grandson (left)

Now that's one happy customer!! **Graham Ely** completed repairs to a *dining chair* for a community member. (right)



Sid Lewinsky is putting some fine touches to one of many *Channukah menorahs* he is making for his family. Sid is working with **Kenny Lazarus** in making these candlesticks (left)



To be able to use the tools, they need to be *sharpened*. **Ian Dawes** is busy getting the tools ready for others to use (left)

Noughts and crosses (right)... made by **Steve Weymouth** with the laser engraver for **Michael Barker**



cont. p.6

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Peter Black is replacing the *rattan seat* to an antique chair that has been in his sister-in-law's family for some time (right)



Graham Carthew is putting the finishing touches to an *end-grain chopping board* made by **Peter Black** (left) **Peter Robilliard** can be seen in the background making a *baby possum box*.



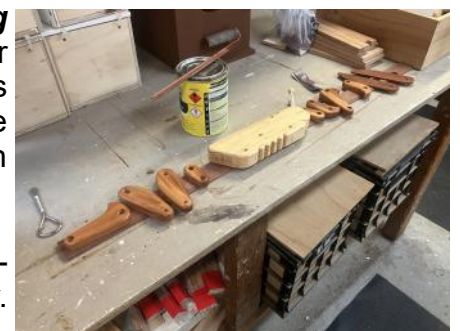
Tom Wolf is back to rigging a *model of HMB Endeavour* for **Mike Weißen**. This extremely fiddly project has been an on again/off again project for a very long time (left)



One of our newer members, **Harold Sher** is seen using the *scroll saw*. (right)



Laurie Bond made a *chopping board* which he brought back for repairs when the glue joints failed. After some advice, the board is now completed with dowel enforced glue joints (left)



Ian Dawes is making a "new design" *caterpillar wooden toy*. (right)

The Five Principles of SHED SCIENCE

- 1. NEVER THROW ANYTHING OUT :** You never know when you might need it.
- 2. I KNOW WHERE EVERYTHING IS:** I know by instinct, it only appears to be a mess.
- 3. YES, I NEED SEVEN OF THOSE:** You can never have too many tools.
- 4. LEAVE THAT ALONE:** Can't you see that's work in progress?
- 5. IT WORKS BETTER THAT WAY:** Stop asking stupid questions.



VISITING CITY NORTH MEN'S SHED

Report and photos by Sid Lewinsky

On Tuesday, 17th February, 2026,, Waverley Shedders **Peter Charlton, Tony Mandarano and Sid Lewinsky** visited the **City North Men's Shed**. We were invited to "inspect & advise" on how to turn pens! Our host, Jeff Smith (Vice-President), gave us a tour of the City North Shed's facility after being introduced to various members and a cup of welcoming tea.



Their Shed was spacious, well air conditioned and exceptionally clean and tidy and their social section, apart from a large seating and eating area also has a full-sized snooker table! They apparently have weekly/monthly social gatherings where they invite guest speakers on various topics and provide light refreshments. The shed will, in the near future, be undertaking an upgrade to their extractor system, and improving their lighting.

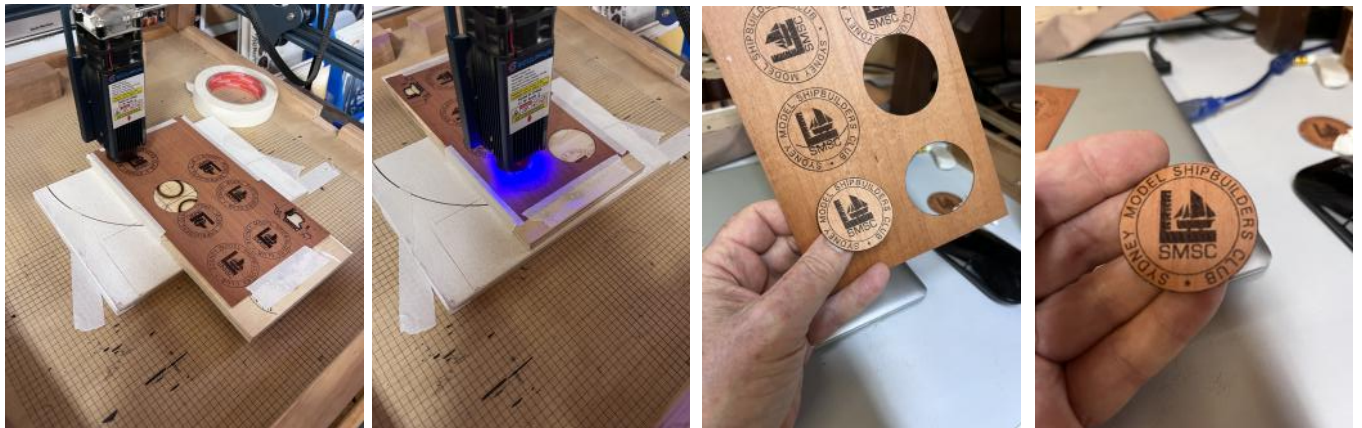
We discussed their needs to start the pen making venture, however the members that were interested couldn't attend, furthermore, they need to acquire more "pen making" equipment. We have now invited their members to attend our shed where we will be in a better position to undertake giving them a lesson on pen making.



LASER BURN/CUT ON VENEER

Report by Tom Wolf and photos by Steve Weymouth

Tom Wolf is a model shipbuilder and he is also involved with the Sydney Model Shipbuilders Club. Tom asked **Steve Weymouth** to replicate the **Club's badge** into veneer, to burn the image and to "pop it out". As per the request, the project was successfully completed.



I joined a procrastinator support group. I'm waiting for the first meeting to be convened.

BIRD OF THE MONTH

Article and photos by Ian Dawes

Buff-banded Rail (*Gallirallus philippensis*)

These birds frequent wet areas, including swamps, sewage farms, mangroves and similar areas around much of Australia, including offshore islands. They are described as being secretive and on the mainland can be hard to spot.

However, on Lady Elliot island they are a pain in the neck around food outlets and completely used to humans as



can be seen in the other photo. The bird on the right made the Randwick Community Garden its home for several months. It was far from shy and benefitted from the gardeners' digging, helping itself to worms and other organisms as they were turned up.



Lady Elliot island is a great place to visit, in addition to a remarkable bird population, it is the southernmost section of the Great Barrier reef and so has still some coral worth visiting as well as being an area to see manta rays and other marine life if you like snorkeling or diving.

A VISIT TO A TASMANIAN SHED

Report and photos by Steve Fox

While travelling in Tasmania I came across the **Waratah Men's Shed** in north western Tasmania. With a population of **245**, the town is located adjacent to the Savage River National Park, and supports tin mining at Mount Bischoff.

When I arrived, the Shedders were setting up for a wood chopping event, here's some pics: Just goes to show that you don't need the support of a community of many thousands of people to make a Men's Shed reach its health objectives! Even such a small community of 245 people can run a successful Shed.





THE GERMAN TABLE

A community member brought a dining table into the Waverley Men's Shed. The table was a family heirloom that had been shipped to Australia from Germany, however, the two table leaves were lost in the shipment. After waiting for months, the leaves never arrived, so we were asked if we could create new leaves that would fit their family table and make it usable for 6-8 people. The original timber on the table was unknown (and couldn't be identified with precision), but was reddish-brown in colour and it was speculated that it might be mahogany.

After much discussion and a little research, **Peter Black** felt that our Shed could do the job, and **Frank Fay** was the Shedder to take the lead. Peter negotiated with the community member to select the right timber for the task at an acceptable budget.

Finger-joined Tasmanian "oak" panels were decided to be the acceptable material.



The oak panels are too light in colour, but are suitable for staining to a closer colour, and **Rodney Goldberg** purchased the panels, picked them up and delivered them to the Shed the next day.

Frank and Peter cut the panels to about 100mm more than the width of the table to allow for later refinement. Becoming aware that there was a difference between the existing table panels (that were about 22mm) and those to replace them (about 19mm), Peter and Frank milled down some pieces of Sydney Blue Gum flooring and glued the flooring pieces to the bottom of the panels to increase the thickness. It looked like a pretty good fit, however, overnight the flooring swelled and cupped a bit (from the glue and the clamping style) and in the morning the panels were found to be too thick!

Frank, and others especially **Graham Carthew**, spent the next two days planing the flooring add-ons down to the right thickness. One of William Honeyball's prized planes was borrowed by the group and finally the panels seemed to fit in place.



Peter suggested that a Domino biscuit joint might be more accurate with the leaves than the existing dowels joining the table ends, so Frank experimented and was given much advice from many Sheddors about how to use the **Festool Domino Joiner**. It was actually pretty fool-proof and did a good job. Frank carefully measured and cut male and female slots into the table and the leaves for the Dominos, and glued the biscuits into the male slots.

The following day, the ends of the biscuit tabs were sanded and narrowed to fit into the female slots, and when the leaves and the table ends were pushed together, the top of the table with leaves, was actually pretty level!

Frank carefully measured and marked where the edge of the table lined-up with the leaves and also marked where the bevel edge would line-up.

cont. p10

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Frank and Peter, with advice from Rodney and **Kenny Lazarus**, cut the panels on the panel saw to length to match the table edge. This was made difficult because the new leaves were not 100% square.

Next, Frank, Peter, and Rodney used the table router to cut the bevels into the edge of the leaves to match the original bevel of the table. That turned out to be a big job. First, there was a lot of practicing to get the right effect which required two different router bits (cove and rounded) lined up perfectly to form a sigmoid curve with a rounded edge.

Each cut required several passes over each bit. Two different router bits, four edges, three passes each time resulted in 24 individual cuts to the large and heavy panels. Finishing right on 3pm and closing time for the Shed for the day, they waited for the next day to test the fit of the table.

The next day, Frank had quite the scare when he tried to fit the leaves on the table and nothing lined up! At first, he thought he would have to re-cut all the Domino tabs, however, **Simon Guthrie** helped him to calm down, and they tried reversing the panels. That worked, things were tight but fit reasonably well.

Frank filled a few cracks with reddish-brown wood putty then used a combination of belt-sander, orbital sander, and hand sanding to even the edges, smooth the top, and break through the varnish of the original table top.

Everything was looking pretty shmick.

Then it was time for Frank to apply bee's wax to all of the old runners under the table and to the Domino tabs. Next up, Peter and Frank worked the expansion mechanism back-and-forth a bit to spread the wax which significantly improved the ease of moving the table parts. It had been many years since the table was last waxed.

At this point, it was up to the community member to select the best stain to match the mixed-timber tops and Frank had to leave the project for other commitments, and supervision of the project was passed over to Peter Black for staining and finishing the table, but the huge contribution of Frank, both co-ordinating other Shedders to assist and doing the lion's share of the work himself to get the project to this stage cannot be overstated.

This done, the owner was asked to pick up the table, and she was well satisfied with the work carried out by our Shedders.



A LETTER OF GRATITUDE

To **Peter Black**

"The table is all set up for photo in full capacity, gently wiped down with damp cloth and polished - thank you all so much, this is such a present - this table has a lot of history and it's nice that we can now enjoy it with many for many years to come"





BUILDING A JAPANESE STYLE TEAHOUSE

By Melissa and Garth Alperstein

Melissa first heard about the cult of tea when, as a teenager, she read the famous '**Book of Tea**' written by **Tenshin Okakura** circa 1920, in which he implored the Japanese not to lose sight of their traditions as they raced towards modernisation. It was many decades later that Melissa visited Japan and became enchanted by the actual places designed by the tea masters, and the green drink itself.

Tea was brought from Mainland China in the 15th century by Buddhist monks who treasured it as a stimulant that would keep them awake during long hours of meditation. Originally mixed with food, tea had by then become a beverage. Grinding it to a fine powder, "macha", the Japanese developed the cult of tea soon after its arrival. The period coincided with the end of the long inter-clan wars, when the Samurai warriors needed to adapt to peace. They chose a path of cultural significance, blending religion and art and ritual in the tea ceremony, which differed significantly from the way that tea was served in the grand halls of the royal palace in Kyoto and also those in China.

As these internecine wars had decimated the large trees in the area of Kyoto (seat of the Emperor), architecture had started to move towards what most of us would now recognise as pure Japanese style, which is more elegant and sparer than its huge Chinese predecessor. The paper covered sliding doors that allowed light into previously dark rooms, the teahouse of this new culture, took the peasant hut influence, incorporating irregular unhewn timber alongside milled wood, and thatched roofs for a rustic effect. It was humble.

The teahouses were small, often attached to temples, almost as outhouses. They did not favour rank and even the highborn sometimes had to crawl through a low door to enter a dark room and sit on a tatami (straw) mat, while they waited for a suspended kettle to boil over a clay pit in the floor.

Styles and designs of teahouses evolved over time, but certain features were standard. One wall included one or two sliding door cupboards (Jibukuro) and floating shelves (Chigaidana) in a space called the Tokowaki, and a display area for scrolls and ikebana (Tokonoma) divided by a special pole (Tokobashira).

Flooring was usually made of Tatami mats (Tatami are mats are straw floor coverings made in standard sizes of approximately 180 x 90 cm, used in modular units to create different sized rooms), which can be arranged in set patterns. The tea masters delighted in making the smallest possible tea-houses. The approach was an important feature too. Some were reached over bridges or stepping stones, surrounded by stone gardens. In the Zen spirit, they were free to break every rule as they pleased.

At the same time as this sophisticated ritual of aesthetic tea culture was evolving the ordinary citizens, who longed to visit the monks and meditate in the mountains, were evolving their backyard versions of the teahouse. These were called Sukiya, which translates as 'fantasy' house. They followed similar principles of Wabi Sabi - the idea of finding beauty in imperfection, impermanence and incompleteness. They built their structures from found objects: a neighbour's thrown-out door or a branch torn down in a storm.

As in the master teahouses, they were consistently inconsistent, i.e, no two walls, windows or pillars were alike. This proliferation of forms in a small space arrests the eye, the irregularity quickens the senses and one feels the space wrapped in a many-layered garment that can be scrutinised as a painting, sculpture or as a piece of nature.

Our teahouse.

After six visits to Japan, each one visiting or revisiting teahouses, I began to fantasise about a small space, 3 by 4 metres, in our backyard. I found books and studied the types of construction on YouTube videos and started to make cardboard models.

I consulted a lot of people with building experience, as I have none. I wasn't taken too seriously, in the beginning. Nevertheless once I put the word out about found materials an enormous amount of wood started collecting down the side of our house.

cont. p.12

cont. from p.11

In September 2024, Melissa realised that she had to put everything else aside and worked out what to do, as the expectation of building around her was turning into an unavoidable pressure. Garth and Melissa employed a handyman friend to help with the build, and as it turns out, they didn't use him nearly as many times as anticipated.

But the handyman's help was invaluable for major parts that they were not capable of, and he was also generous with his tools and advice, and helped Garth and Melissa gain confidence in their ability to pull it off. They soon developed a comfortable rhythm of working nearly every day and focusing on one problem at a time, rather than thinking too much ahead. (Apologies to Peter and Narelle Black, their backyard neighbours, who had to endure many hours of building noise, but never once complained).

It was obvious from the start that Melissa wasn't going to be able to achieve Japanese joinery standards or build a nail-less tea-house so she had to adapt it. However, the aesthetic principles were crucial and screws were hidden or countersunk whenever possible. No cross-bracing was used, and materials such as marine ply were covered.

The plan is a classical 4 1/2 tatami mat square space. The North side has a deep box, added outside the square floor area to provide certain traditional features of a tea house such as the display area, the floating shelves and the sliding door cabinet, as mentioned above.



Outside the square, along the North side is a deep bench with a canopy. This kind of outside 'waiting room' where you can take off your shoes before entering is a common feature.

The first stage was the construction of a low square platform of termite-proof treated pine above the brick pavers, which were uneven but solidly in place. One wall was backed up against a stepped brick wall, which added some support through bracing. This square was covered with marine ply, to support the floor panels.

Then the four hardwood columns were erected in the corners. These were from an old homestead in Orange. Garth and Melissa wire brushed them to retain the weathered surfaces which were all different. One was cemented in place into an already existing brick box that intruded into the square. For structural reasons, it was decided to leave it in place and work around it.

The four horizontal beams connecting the main pillars and eventually supporting the roof were recycled iron-bark from a house demolition in Randwick. The deep red became a signature colour, repeated throughout the building.

Most of the roof rafters were recycled cedar that had been removed from a friend's house in Randwick, where they had been stored for thirty years. A few more were from demolished houses in the area. Cutting the angles of the rafters was extremely challenging. Fortunately, Garth and Melissa had a few bits of wood to practice with.

Part of the problem, besides their inexperience, was the fact that all the wood was slightly warped, including the ridgepole. The first Japanese guest perceptively enquired about the difficulty of making the rafters and explained that there is a Japanese saying along the lines of "carpenters and mice cry over rafters." This sentiment is understandable.

A pair of stabilising cross beams went across the square, supporting the roof. One of these was a found piece of milled hardwood, and the other a thick limb of melaleuca (paper bark) - a native hardwood from two streets away. It had probably been torn off in a storm and was marked for removal. These two beams added stability to the structure. Japanese design does not use diagonal cross beams, so at this stage the structure still had some sideways movement.

Two sides, South and West, are open and are edge at floor level with a copper-covered groove so that screens can be fitted in at a later date. The copper came from downpipes removed from an old block of flats in Vacluse. They had been saved, by an outraged tenant who had intended to do something with them for 30 years.

cont. p.13

cont. from p.12

The other two walls are closed. The East side has a long horizontal window. These walls are made of marine ply and have been finished with two styles of cladding. On the East side, a mixture of terracotta clay, exterior PVA glue and an increasing amount of black oxide creates a gradually greyer and darker layered surface, sprinkled with sparkling dashes of reed husk pressed into the surface. The wall of the boxed side is divided by a grid of mulberry twigs and framed by large pieces of yellow bamboo. The walls are clad with clay mixed with pva glue and patterned with crushed eggshells.

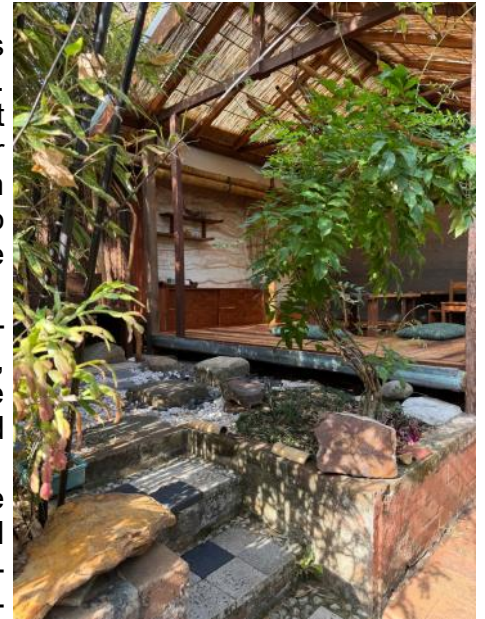
Garth and Melissa adapted the floor mat idea to their semi-outdoor situation by substituting slabs of casurina, an Australian hardwood with beautiful tones, deep red to cream, which was purchased, already cured for one year, from a timber mill near Termeil on the South Coast.

These planks were not cut into boards of regular width, as Melissa preferred to work out a mosaic design of three planks per 'mat' so that she could keep the beautiful shapes and side patterns.

Melissa spent a lot of time choosing the best fit for the various pieces, laying them out on a big tarp to get the best result. The gaps were filled with pieces from a few spare boards; just enough to finish the floor. The square in the middle was over a base that goes down to the floor and can be mounted on legs to provide a low table with legroom below or set flat to complete the floor. Each floor component was edged with the ironbark

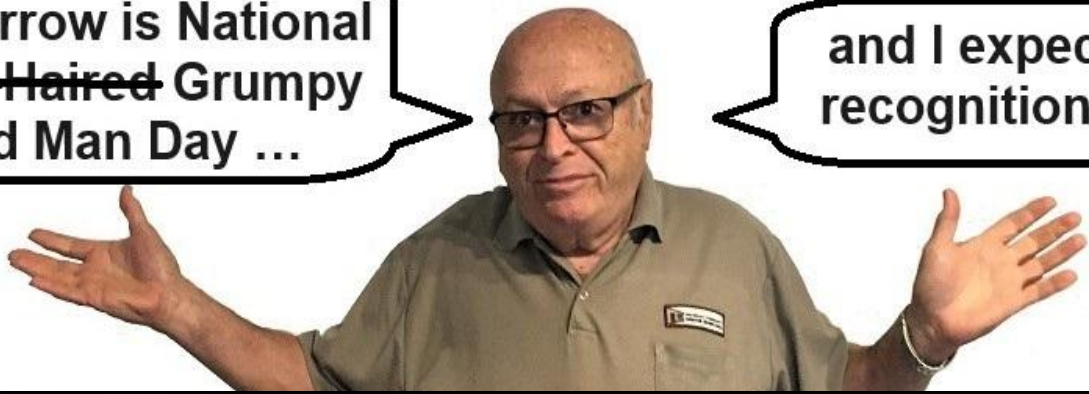
The Waverley Men's Shed, with an amazing array of wood-working tools provided an invaluable assistance to the project, starting with the floor trim and moving to cutting the right size pieces for the window frame, and then finally the cabinet and floating shelves.

Without the expertise of the Shed, the project would have been difficult to complete and would certainly not have looked as good. Garth is eternally grateful for the advice, much technical help and patience (with his novice status) of all the experienced 'young' blokes at the Shed. Melissa was delighted that such a high level of skill was shared, as these final parts are now a real feast for the eye, and give finesse to the project.



Tomorrow is National
~~Grey Haired Grumpy~~
Old Man Day ...

and I expect
recognition!!



(Bald)



**Started growing my own
pot ... don't know if I'm
doing it right?**

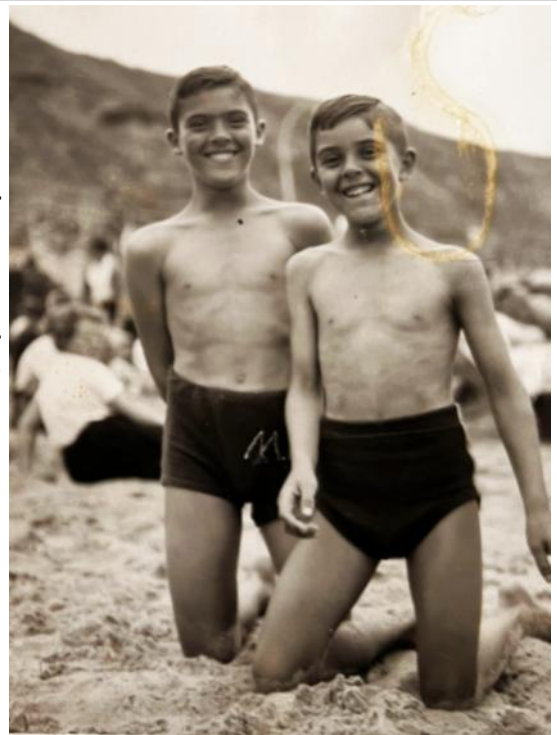


WHO'S THIS MEMBER?

Here we have a **Waverley Shed member** photographed when he was about 8 years old, seen here on holidays with his brother Colin

We can't offer prizes to those who guess, but the embarrassment to our member should compensate for the lack of prizes.

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



CHECK IN WITH YOUR MATES

From "Mate, you Right", the newsletter of the Special Envoy for Men's Health

We never really know what someone's carrying. Everyone's got their own battles, and sometimes the strongest-looking blokes, the ones who are always cracking jokes or helping everyone else out, are the ones who need a quiet check-in the most

So this is your reminder, send that message, make that call, grab a coffee or a beer with a mate. A simple "How you travelling?" can make all the difference. Let's keep looking out for one another because none of us should carry the load alone.

If you or someone you know is doing it tough, there's support out there:

-  Lifeline – 13 11 14
-  MensLine Australia – 1300 78 99 78
-  Beyond Blue – 1300 22 4636
-  13YARN – 13 92 76
-  Suicide Call Back Service – 1300 659 467.



@ [redacted] · Follow



Why must I prove that I am me to pay my bills over the phone?

Do strangers call to pay my bills?

And if they do, why don't you let them?

5:18 PM · Feb 18, 2026



Contributed by Clif Munro

Editor's comment: I normally do not look at (or even consider) Facebook comments, but this was too good to overlook. Sadly however, this is so true!



CORTIS WANDERINGS, SOUTH COAST

Part 1 - Sydney to Orbost (Vic) - February 2026

We decided to take a week or so away in the motorhome in February. The south coast looked like an option as the weather may be just a little cooler and it had been a while since we had been that way.

First stop was **Ulladulla** where we camped in the caravan park on the point, we have stayed there before, and as it turned out, we ended up with a spot under a shady tree with a bit of space around us. In the morning we drove out to the lighthouse and lookout on the end of the headland and took in the view of the ocean.

Next day, we wandered down the highway and just before the bridge at **Batemans Bay**, we turned off at the roundabout and eventually found the rickety little boat shed at the end of a rough dirt track beside the Clyde River that sold local oysters.



Moving on from Batemans Bay we drove past several caravan parks that looked a bit too crowded before deciding on the **Tomakin** caravan park where we fluked a site right on the edge of the lagoon, but had to make sure the handbrake was properly on before going to bed. We had a short walk along the mangroves beside the lagoon and then cooled off in the pool. Oysters and a G&T beside lagoon as the sun set. We had a fair bit of rain overnight as the southerly change went through so the weather was a bit more comfortable in the morning.

The following day, we stopped at the cheese factory in **Boddalla** which was just a tourist shop and felt obliged to buy some cheese, and from there, we followed our plan to go to **Tathra** where we had another look at the historic Tathra Wharf where ships used to berth for loading and unloading. The wharf and the view from the headland are worth the effort to stop and quietly contemplate.

There are several caravan parks along the beachfront in Tathra but just across the road there is another, calling itself an Eco Park where they have much wider spaced camping sites amongst tall mature trees and this is where we checked in. We have been here before, and again it was a pleasant overnight stay. We followed the walking path to the road and then down the sandy path to the beach where we walked on the sand and watched the waves.



In the morning we set off heading south down the road, passing through the crowded town centre of **Merimbula** and other villages on the road towards **Eden**.

In Eden, we had a wander around the port which used to be mainly fishing boats but the government has built a glitzy cruise ship dock, apparently to bring business to the town. We then headed about 8-9kms south to Boydtown, named after a fellow called Boyd who dabbled in many enterprises including whaling and local maritime trading.

Ben Boyd is also reported to have imported labour from the Pacific Islands, an activity generally known as blackbirding. For his whaling and maritime trading, he had a lookout tower erected on the outer southern headland of Twofold Bay so he could get advance knowledge of impending ship arrivals.

The Seahorse Inn has a very nice bistro and is worth a visit. We checked in to the caravan park at the hotel desk, and we had a couple of very pleasant walks along the beach during our stay. There is plenty of history around Eden. On previous trips we have spent several days exploring the region, including the road out to Green Cape lighthouse.

cont. p.16

cont. from p.15

We headed south along the A1 Princes Highway which is a fairly rough and windy two lane rural road towards Cann River in Victoria.

There is not much habitation along this piece of road, but we stopped for a breather at the hamlet of **Genoa**, which is at the turnoff to **Mallacoota**, which lies 23kms away along a winding road.

Mallacoota is a busy town and the caravan park sites were all were very tightly packed and mostly full. It has a lovely and extensive waterway with supposedly good fishing so it is the place to stay if you have a boat and like fishing.



We had some lunch at a nice cafe and then moved on to **Cann River** which is not on the coast but is at the junction of the Princes Highway and the Monaro Highway from Cooma and Canberra.

We camped at the free spot just over the bridge and walked into town for a look around. Cann River appears to be more of a local service town rather than a tourist destination.

Moving on along the A1 Princes Highway, we turned off onto the tourist drive down to Cape Conran which had a nice beach with a surf break and several snug little free camping spots amongst the coastal bushes which may attract itinerant

board surfers. Definitely no lifeguard service here.

We moved on to **Marlo** which is on the Snowy River estuary where it exits to the sea.

Marlo is a quiet little town with a boat ramp and a jetty for the trailer fishermen. Just up the hill from the jetty there is a cafe/shop, a motel, and a neat but fairly cramped caravan park.

The water views along the estuary are good and worth a few hours to absorb. Perhaps a day or more if you have the inclination.

Moving on from Marlo, back towards the Highway, the road follows the Snowy River and there are many little clearings between the road and the river which are just sufficient for a car and a caravan and many appeared to be occupied by casual fishermen. Perhaps just an excuse to sit and contemplate the river?

Once in **Orbost**, the road diverts away from the Snowy River. We have camped in the caravan park in Orbost on several occasions when we have used it to explore the nearby busy and hectic waterways such as Metung, Paynesville and Marley Point together with all those other coastal villages around the Gippsland Lakes beloved of summer holidaymakers.

If you feel like it, take a drive all the way out to Loch Sport. Bairnsdale and Sale are the main service towns. Definitely worth a good look around but a bit too crowded for us these days, especially in the summer holiday season. There is a helpful information centre in Orbost which may offer a few clues on what you can do in the area.



TO BE CONTINUED NEXT ISSUE



This policeman came to my place and asked me where I was between 5 and 6 He seemed to be very irritated when I answered "in kindergarten"



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!!.



Contributed by Gerard O'Brien

