



WAVERLEY COMMUNITY
MEN'S SHED INC.

SCUTTLEBUTT

WCMS MEMBERS' NEWSLETTER

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

Volume 7 Issue 5

MAY 2026

Editor: Tom Wolf <tom@aces.net.au>

Assistant Editor: Raymond Garfield <rlgarfield05@icloud.com>

Website: [http:// waverleycommunitymensshed.org.au](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

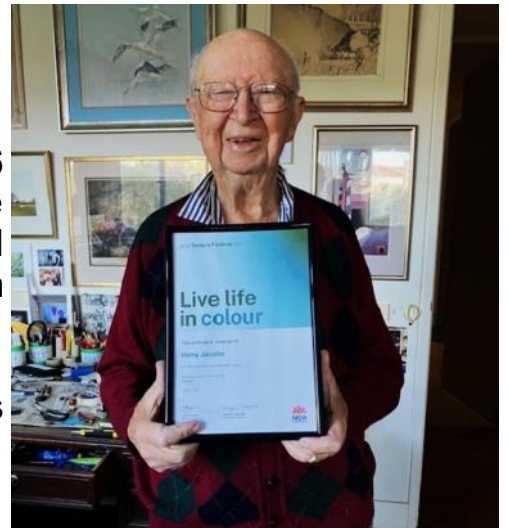
IF YOU ARE NOT WELL, YOU ARE NOT WELCOME AT THE SHED!



CONGRATULATIONS HARRY

Last month we reported that **Harry Jacobs**, our 96 year "young" member, was recently awarded the "**NSW Local Senior of the Year**", and that he had received his Award at Government House on 17th March, 2026.

We have now obtained a photo of Harry with his certificate, a well deserved honour.



NEXT "SOCIAL FRIDAY"

Members and friends are invited to meet

at 12 noon on 24 April
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!!



**GET THE
FLU SHOT
BEFORE THE
FLU GETS YOU**



PRESIDENT'S BLOG

Where are we up to re a new Shed?

We have been looking for many years to secure a new Men's Shed, either temporarily during the 4-5 years while the War Memorial construction works are proceeding, or permanently. We have looked at a lot of places and have a "Long List" that had 85 possibilities. Regrettably, the prospect of success does not look good.

Uniting held a community up-date session on Wednesday 25 March 2026 at which the most significant point was: WCMS needs to be out by 1st quarter 2027. We believe that Uniting will provide space for a smaller Shed than we really require in Stage 2 of their development on the War Memorial Hospital site.

The added problem is that it will not be available for 5 to 7 years.

We have searched in WAVERLEY LGA

We asked Waverley Council if we could use the now disused Council Chambers in Bondi Rd for a small number of years while Council decides how to use the site. Our request was refused.

Perhaps we could occupy the old Scout Hall site in Victoria Park, within the curve of Queens Park Rd.

Perhaps we could put a temporary Shed on the top car park floor of Eastgate shopping centre, a strata area owned by Waverley Council and hardly used.

We have identified a number of other sites in Waverley Council LGA that we believe could be suitable for a Shed, but Waverley Council has not offered any.

At the Waverley Council Combined Precinct meeting on 9th October 2025, a motion was passed supporting the Shed in Waverley and recommending that Waverley find a site. The motion passed unanimously yet, six months later, nothing has happened.

We have searched in WOOLLAHRA LGA

We have asked if we could utilise the stables at the back of Strickland House (a large sandstone building that is hardly used) or if we could use the old Paddington Bowling Club building that is now owned by the Local Aboriginal Land Council, but Woollahra Council has not been particularly forthcoming on both proposals as it says these properties are not under their control and have not offered any others.

We have searched in the grounds of UNSW

We have found two potential sites on UNSW property and have asked whether we can use them in the short term, but we were knocked back. So, we have asked again because there is at least one building that has not been used since 2016 and we only need it till we can move back into the Uniting Hospital site in say 4 years.

We have searched in RANDWICK LGA

We note that in 2023 Randwick Council discussed a proposed new location for SES Randwick facility and HQ that included "The site also has the potential for a Men's Shed to be constructed in conjunction with the SES Headquarters." This will be fantastic but we believe that Randwick does not have the funds and the opportunity for us is more than 5 years away.

We note also that in 2015 or 2016 Randwick City Council asked the President of Randwick Rotary Club to organise a Men's Shed in Randwick LGA, the Rotary President met with the Board at WCMS and when they found out how hard it was to start a new Men's Shed they declined to take on the job of creating a Shed. At least we know that Randwick were considering a Shed at that time.

We have asked Randwick Council for sites, thinking that the disused tennis courts in Popplewell Park or part of the old Inglis Stables in Newmarket (a lovely heritage building that has been vacant for years) may be available. These and other potential sites have now been formally identified in a motion put to a Randwick Council meeting on 24 March 2026 asking for a report to Council on options for the Shed in Randwick LGA. This motion was passed unanimously.

CONCLUSION

Although not all is totally lost quite yet, there may still be a chance at UNSW and we sincerely hope that Randwick Council's report has positive recommendations for us.

If none of these options transpires well before the end of 2026, the Men's Shed may need to go into retirement, and that, dear readers, could be a calamitous outcome for our current and future members. Once in retirement, the Men's Shed may never return.

So, although we have strong support from our Federal Members, Allegra Spender MP and Matt Thistlethwaite MP, and our State Members, Marjorie O'Neill MP and Kellie Sloane MP, without an identified site to which we can relocate by the end of 2026, the Men's Shed may not exist beyond early next year.

We are hopeful that something will come up, but we need pressure to bear on those in charge of our destiny. We will let you know when the Randwick report is to be discussed at a Randwick Council meeting so that we can get significant community support through people writing to Councillors ahead of the meeting and making oral submissions at the meeting.

Please support us.

Peter



SHED GOINGS-ON (CURRENT PROJECTS ETC.)



Steve Weymouth burned a **sign** for Richard Cortis on the laser engraver (left). We believe Steve left out a few lines (as suggested by a different sign that your Editor found while surfing the internet) (right).



Dave Colwell has installed the rattan material to the seat of Peter Black's **antique chair** (left).

William Honeyball has been making a **2 storey high toy car garage with a lift** for some time, it is FINALLY FINISHED!! (right)



Nick Tyrrell has made a set of **toy cars** (right)



Peter Black has finished the custom made **table** he's been building (left)

Kenny Lazarus made tile stands for a mahjong club in the Rose Bay/Vaucluse suburbs. The community member asking for these **Mahjong tile stands** that required precise angular cuts was very satisfied (right)



Sid Lewinsky's **Channukah Menorah** has progressed. It still needs the installation of the metallic candleholders to be completed (left).

Sid also made a number of **Matzo boxes** (to hold the unleavened bread during Passover celebrations) (right)



cont. p.4

cont. from p.3

William Honeyball's next project is the restoration of an **antique child's rocking chair** (right)



Peter Black made colourful **cook-top covers** for the toy stoves at the St.Mary's Pre-school in Birrell Street (above)



Harry Jacobs, our 96 year "young" member, has made a **coat-rack** for his grandson. It was a significant project for Harry, as the timber for the project came from a tree on his grandson's property (left)



Peter Charlton has turned the base of the pedestal stand for a **coffee table** (right)



Graham Ely is a contender for the title "The Chairman" for the number of **chairs** he repairs for community members. (left)



Harold Sher is making a set of **drink coasters** (right)



Ian Dawes turned a beautiful **small bowl**. The features of the timber show up very nicely (left)

New member **David Civin** is making a **stand for his coffee maker** (right)



This **wicker table** originally came with a glass top, which broke. **Peter Black** is replacing the broken top with a wooden top as requested by a community member (left)

Rodger Jamieson is making **pens** as gifts when he visits family in the UK later this year (right)



COUNCILLOR VISIT TO THE SHED



On Wednesday, 1st April, we were visited by **Councillor Carolyn Martin**, representative of the **East Ward of Randwick Council**.



The visit was expressly brought about by concerns for the establishment of a Men's Shed in the Randwick LGA, Cr Martin had been planning a visit to the Shed for some time, but something seemed to crop up all the time, so she was finally very pleased to attend.

Cr Martin is a strong supporter of the Men's Shed and we believe she was impressed by our Shed, our work, and the camaraderie of our members.

MARCH SOCIAL FRIDAY



Six members enjoyed this social gathering at Maroubra Seals on **27 March 2026**.

For those who are not aware, members gather for "Social Friday" on the last Friday of every month, the venue was selected to ensure that the event can be enjoyed by everyone, whether they wish to purchase food and drinks at the Club Bistro, or just come along to enjoy the social atmosphere with fellow members.

As membership of the Shed is now open to women, we suspect that some of our female members may wish to join us for this social event in the future.



HINTS & TIPS FROM YOUTUBE



After seeing it on YouTube, **Mo Dhanoya** made a *twisted furniture leg* from a single piece of wood with no waste (other than the sawdust created by the kerf).



Quite ingenious!!



"TAGGING" ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES

Ian Dawes, one of our members licensed to carry out statutory certification of electrical appliances for "fitness to use", has carried out "tagging" of all electrical machinery, appliances and equipment in the Shed.

Each item had to be separately tested for compliance, and recorded, without such "tag" the item cannot be used.

We thank Ian for carrying out this tedious task.



markmoran
VAUCLUSE

CHINESE NEW YEAR AT MMV

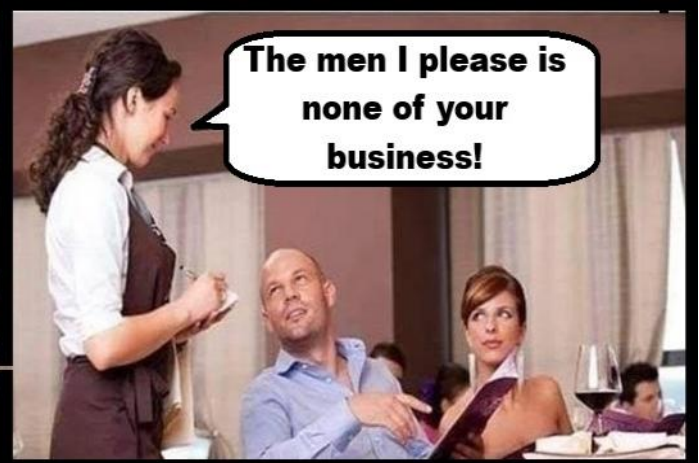


Tom and Sandy Wolf run a fortnightly activity for the residents in the nursing home of **Mark Moran Vauclose Village** on behalf of the auxiliary Men's Shed at MMV.

In mid-February, the activity was the making of lanterns for Chinese New Year, the residents glued strips of crepe paper to inflated balloons, which on drying and being cut open, became lanterns.



As no open flames are permitted in nursing homes, the internal lighting is done with battery operated tea candles.



MEN'S SHED ON BRUNY ISLAND



Following up on the report last month, on his Tasmanian travels, Steve Fox went to Bruny Island, southern Tasmania.

Whilst there, he visited the Men's Shed and snapped some photos.

Note the ladies' hours.



HINTS & TRICKS

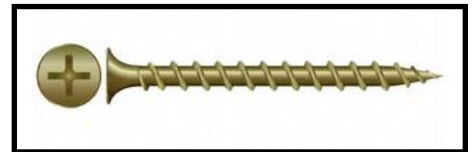
WOOD SCREW -v- DRYWALL SCREW



When working on a timber project, steer clear of drywall screws

For better results, use a regular wood screw rather than a drywall screw when joining two individual sections of wood.

Drywall screws are threaded along their full length. Because the top threads tend to grasp the first board they enter, threads in both boards can slightly push two pieces of wood apart.



A smooth shank on the top of a wood screw, on the other hand, won't grab the first board. As such, when you use this approach, it will be easier to clamp the two pieces of wood together.

Another reason to avoid drywall screws is that the drywall screws hardened, brittle steel shafts frequently break during installation, especially when screwed into hardwoods. It's not possible to take them out of a completed substance. Even if you were to do so, you could ruin the surface.



Wood screws are constructed of a thicker, softer metal that is more resistant to breaking.

Wood screws, on the other hand, necessitate drilling.

Honey, I have to confess, I've slept with lots of prostitutes before I met you!

I just knew I'd seen you somewhere before!!



RICHARD'S METAL MONSTERS

Richard Cortis calls them his "monsters", but these wonderful *metal sculptures* made from old and discarded tools and other metal "junk" usually represent animals and other recognisable things.

Richard keeps thanking us for the old throw-away tools used to make these monsters, he very much appreciates the support.

As can be seen, these little (sometimes not-so-little) sculptures are named "Krocker Phile"; "Dex the Dog" and "Maxine Messenger", but without fail they are innovative and attract a lot of attention.

WELL DONE RICHARD



METAL IN OLD WOOD

Terry Ryan found some timber in his 100 year old home and he decided that it would be very useful in his proposed project. He brought it in to the Shed, but on running a metal detector over it the beeping sound was ear-shattering!

So, obviously, dealing with the timber on any of our saws and thicknesser was out of the question until whatever metallic object was in the timber was removed, and that was easier said than done.



Eventually the metal was located, a chunk of the wood was exposed and the metal object extracted, only for another beep to be heard needing more metal extracting.

Well done Terry, much cheaper than paying for a new cartridge and sawblade on the table saw!



BRAINFREEZE

What was that cracking sound?



COMBINED CHANUKAH MENORAH PROJECTS

Sid Lewinsky and Kenny Lazarus are making a number of **Chanukah Menorahs** for their respective families. The candlestick menorahs feature a number of intricate semi-circular cuts, as well as a star made of 6 identical diamond shaped cuts. Each menorah has nine candle holders, all the same length.

So, they asked **Richard Cortis** to use his expertise at **cutting brass tubes** on his lathe and to finish the short tubes with neat ends.



Richard made a tool to easily measure each candle holder while in the lathe chuck, the photos summarise it all.



HARRY'S CHANUKAH MENORAH PROJECT

Whilst writing about Sid and Kenny's combined project, your Editor was reminded that **Harry Jacobs** has been working for some time in also making a **Chanukah Menorah**

Harry has been quite stressed about completing this project as he has been suffering from ill health, and he is, after all, 96 years "young!"

Anyway, it is now complete and ready for Harry to present his gift to his family.



Meaningless statistics were up one-point-five percent this month over last month.



WAVERLEY COUNCIL'S REPAIR CAFE

Waverley Council hosts a "Repair Café" every few months, this project enables residents to bring their damaged, faulty or broken items to the Café for free repairs.



The Café caters for a variety of repairs, from electrical to DIY and woodwork, sewing, knife sharpening,

jewellery repairs, and even checking and tagging electrical equipment.

On 29 March, **Tom and Sandy Wolf** attended to carry out Woodwork repairs on behalf of WCMS, a very successful session where those furniture items brought in by community members that could not be repaired at the Café were referred to the Shed for repairs.. During the morning, Local Federal member **Allegra Spender MP** attended and was quite impressed by the workshop. As Tom and Sandy will be overseas, they will not be available to run this stand on behalf of WCMS at the next date.



Members are invited to attend and run the woodworking stand on behalf of the Waverley Shed, if interested please indicate your availability to **Peter Charlton**, and contact **David Cutler** (Waverley Council) and follow/join the chat on **WhatsApp**.

Join us at the next Repair Cafe



SATURDAY 23 MAY
@ THE MILL HILL HALL
33 Spring Street
Bondi Junction
9.30am to 12.00pm

JOIN US AT THE NEXT REPAIR CAFE

Saturday, 23 May 2026
@ THE MILL HILL HALL
33 Spring Street, Bondi Junction

9:30am to 12:00pm

MAKING CHESS PIECES ON A LATHE

By Ian Dawes



One of the first things to consider is the wood to use. Finding suitable close-grained white and dark timber is not particularly easy. For the white timber I have used Huon pine, American rock maple, hibiscus, and privet, (which fades to grey with time) – with the rock maple being the favourite.

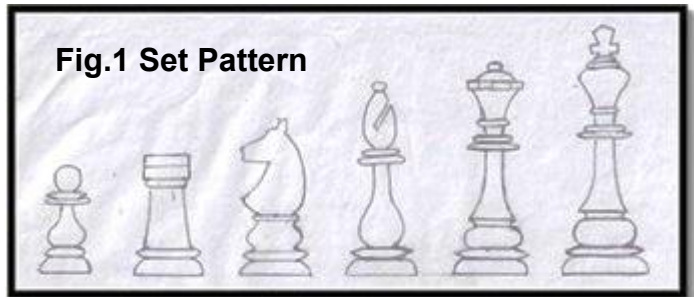
One old timber book suggests ivorywood (grows from the Clarence in northern NSW to Bundaberg in Qld), Pittosporum (from coastal NSW and Qld) and Black Apple (a fruit-bearing tree from the Illawarra in NSW to Bulburin in Qld).

None of these woods are available commercially. Wood from citrus trees may be suitable, but needs to be very dry before use. Some European timbers such as Horse Chestnut, Lime or Holly may be available.

For the dark timber I have used Wenge (an black African wood with grey streaking) or Australian Blackwood (which is really dark brown with lighter streaking).

Wenge is expensive, but available – it is a little brittle so care is needed in turning fine parts, but the results are brilliant. If one has unlimited finance one could try one of the Ebonys or Rosewoods. The other alternative is to stain white wood to make the dark pieces – this does however make them look rather featureless. Another important early step is to decide what pattern you want to follow, and set it out clearly.

Figure 1 shows an example pattern, which is close to the one that I normally follow.



Patterns can be from very simple to very complex, see for example the chess pieces that Matthew Flinders used while stranded in Mauritius as illustrated in **Figure 2**.

These are held in the **State Library of NSW** and described by **Mike Darlow**, "**Matthew Flinders' Chess Set**" in the **Australian Woodworker**", Nov/Dec 2004 p.52.

The next step is to determine the measurements of the chess board to be used – if the squares are 45 mm wide then the largest pieces should ideally have a base diameter that is around 32-35 mm.

In order to get pieces that are as near identical as possible (especially for pawns that are lined up next to each other) it is a good idea to set out for each piece the measurements (length from top and diameter) for every bit of detail, and use accurate calipers continuously during the turning to ensure that the diameter is correct. For pawns that need a lot of repetitive turning, putting the vertical dimensions on a piece of wood or card is useful.

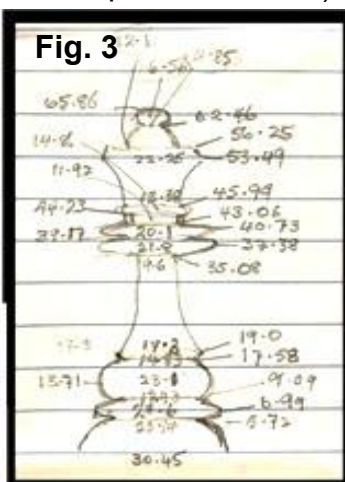


Figure 3 illustrates a data set used for a queen, giving diameters of each feature (left or centre) and distances from the base (on the right).

The blank for each piece can be glued to a wooden block that is then attached to the headstock - the tailstock is not needed, and would get in the way of the turning for some pieces. CA glue gives a very rapid set provided the two surfaces are flat and one can begin turning after ~5 minutes. It is a good idea to reduce the blank to round for each piece to just larger than the widest diameter, and progress from a part with the widest diameter (e.g. the frill around the king) and gradually progress working to the next largest one.

cont. p.12

cont. from p.11

Some of the features (e.g. the frills around the king and queen) need fine sharp tools - I have a set of narrow skew chisels made from old wood chisels ground to a fairly acute angle for this purpose. For the rooks the parapet is made using a parting tool to cut into the top of the pieces.

After each turning is complete it is a good idea to carefully sand it to at least 400 grit (avoiding rounding over detail) – one can get a really smooth finish by ending up with 1000 grit (wet and dry). I don't use any other finish, but one could use any suitable wax or varnish if so desired. Parting off should be done using a parting tool set at a slight angle to undercut the piece so it sits flat.

Once turned some of the pieces may need to be modified. For the king, the cross on the crown is made by cutting down the top section from each side leaving ~3 mm in the centre. The queen has nine grooves cut with a round file into the edge of the crown (it helps to make a template with lines radiating 40 degrees apart, and cut a hole in the centre to fit over the top of the crown and use it to mark where the grooves go).

The groove in the top of the bishop can be cut in the small band saw using a jig designed to hold the piece very steady and ensure that it doesn't rotate when the saw blade begins the cut.

For the rooks one can mark six points at 60 degrees around the top of the turret – and with an appropriate jig cut each of the three opposing sides together in the band saw.

The knights need much more. It is possible to cut a lot of knight heads in a circle on the lathe, but this means that one is making a lot of chess sets.

The other approach is to turn the base and cut the head separately from a flat piece of wood, then use a Dremel and small files to shape the head – one can get quite a lot of detail this way with eyes, nostrils and mane (**Figure 4**), the heads are then glued to the turned base using epoxy glue for strength.

The designs shown here involve fairly complicated turning. There are many more designs available for chess pieces, some much easier to produce.



If you search the web for “chess piece design” there are many examples to give you inspiration. Some don't even involve the lathe.

Once the pieces have been made the question of how to store them arises. I have made a chess board that folds in the middle to make a box that also holds the pieces as seen on the left.

How to make that is for a separate article, although quite a few shed members have already made chess boards, so now is the time to make the pieces to go on them.



**Why do chess players
have many children?
Cause they mate a lot.**



WHO'S THIS MEMBER?

Here we have a **Waverley Shed** member photographed when he was about 5 years old, seen here in the back yard of his home.

Hint:

1. He doesn't look like that now!
2. He is an old time member who is not seen too often around the Shed nowadays.

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

Entries to the Editor: tom@aces.net.au



LAST MONTH'S ANSWER



Correct entries:

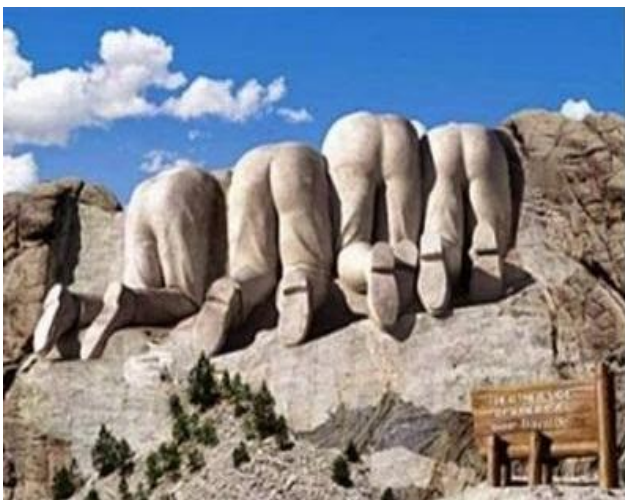
- Tony Mandarano;
- Peter Robilliard;

But, **Raymond Garfiled** thought it was **Mo Dhanoya** ... **WRONG!**

The member shown in the photo, is that of no other than our esteemed Secretary, :

Graham Ely

The photo was taken whilst on holidays in Guernsey with his brother Colin, and here is what he looks like **now**.



Something Donald Trump has not taken into consideration ... Mt. Rushmore from the Canadian side!

BIRD OF THE MONTH

Article and photos by Ian Dawes



Cape Barren Goose - *Cereopsis novaehollandiae*

Not closely related to true geese, these rather odd looking birds are endemic to Australia. They are restricted to southern coastal regions of Victoria, South Australia and islands in the Bass strait, with a separate rare subspecies in south western WA.



They breed in winter on islands in Bass Strait. The pair shown here were on Maria Island off the east coast of Tasmania and were very used to human visitors, the one on the nest not moving or showing any alarm even when closely approached. They are mainly terrestrial, rarely going into water.

We tried to find them on the south coast of SA, but that only turned into a wild goose chase.



CORTIS WANDERINGS: PELICAN ON A POLE



On a recent visit to Marlo (Vic.), Richard Cortis stood on the jetty and watched the pelicans and cormorants fishing in the shallow water ...



and then took great care not to walk too close to the pole with the pelican perched on top.



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

I WAS WRONG!!!



CORTIS WANDERINGS, SOUTH COAST

Part 2 - Omeo (Vic) to Sydney - February 2026

We headed off up the road away from the coast and towards **Omeo** and stopped briefly in **Bruthen** which has a grassy little caravan park beside the river.

It was a bit hot and sunny so we pressed on up the B500 Great Alpine Road towards Omeo. Down here in the Gippsland is the Tambo River that generally follows the road towards (or away from) Omeo.

Perhaps we did not look closely enough out of Bruthen. The winding mountain road (the road map showed a very wiggly line for about 20kms) took us all the way to Omeo where we stopped for the night in the caravan park below the town with a comfortable site beside the creek. We enjoyed a quiet and pleasant stroll beside the creek before settling in for the evening. Leaving Omeo, we headed up the Great Alpine Road towards Dinner Plain which is an accommodation village for the Mount Hotham ski field about fourteen kilometres from the Hotham ski field, but the whole place was closed for the summer



From **Omeo**, we headed down the mountain on a very winding mountain pass to **Harrietville** where we had a lovely walk by the creek that runs through the rather quaint and rustic caravan park.

Harrietville is at the bottom of the winding mountain road from Hotham with the more undulating country at the other end of town.

There is a cycleway that runs the 26kms up from Bright which complements the Murray to the Mountains cycleway which goes from Bright, through Myrtleford and on to Wangaratta. The bit from Wangaratta to the Murray River is yet to be completed.



From my experience several years ago, the cycleway from Harrietville to Wangaratta must be the best in Australia with the 30kms from Bright to Myrtleford being the best I have ridden. Sadly, age has caught up and I just have to remember those days. Young members are urged to have a go.

A few kilometres down the road from **Harrietville** there is a trout farm which sells fresh and smoked produce as well as allowing you to have a go at catching your own, at a price of course.

We drove up from Bright and had a look at the caravan park at **Wandillagong**, about 7kms out of Bright but we decided to head to **Myrtleford** because Bright is crowded and we needed to do some shopping. But Wandillagong is a pleasant and very quiet area if you just want to sit and look at the trees and read a book. There is a nice cycle track going down to Bright which joins the Murray to the Mountains Rail Trail.

We camped in Myrtleford at the caravan park adjoining the town centre and had a cooling dip in the town swimming pool next door.



cont. p.16

cont. from p.15

This shop is just like a museum junk shop except that everything is for sale here. And it is always worth a look and a browse. The variety of stuff cannot be imagined without seeing it, including steel fire pits and ornate sedan chairs. The photos show a tiny sample of the stuff available, mostly from India and parts of Indonesia.

Myrtleford has a number of pleasant coffee shops and cafes as well a pub where we have had some very nice meals.

We left Myrtleford and headed to **Beechworth** where we once again visited the Beechworth Bakery for a coffee and something special from the patisserie and then had a bit of a wander in the town where there is plenty of interesting history from its gold mining past.

For the cycling enthusiasts there is a great rail trail that goes down the hill to join the Murray to the Mountains Rail Trail where you can turn left to go to Myrtleford and Bright or turn right to head to Wangaratta.

Leaving Beechworth, we passed through **Yackandandah** ("Yack" to the locals), which has a historic main street with some interesting shops.

Along the road, some places have interesting names such as **Tangambalanga**. Lake Hume was very low and there was no water at all at **Tallangatta** (Tall-an-gattah) where the water usually comes up close to parts of the High Country Rail Trail which runs all the way to Wodonga.

The roads from Myrtleford to Tallangatta are mainly backroads with limited traffic so you will need to read your map and turn where your GPS Satnav tells you to. But it is pretty country.

A bit beyond Tallangatta, the country through almost to Colac Colac was recently ravaged by very severe bush fires with extensive damage to the country and many properties. It made us feel very sad as we passed through.

We planned to stop in Walwa, a small village on the Murray River but there was an entertainment event so we moved on to **Colac Colac** ("Clack Clack" to locals) where we stopped for the night. We have stayed here before and we knew there were well shaded camp sites where we could shelter from the heat wave afternoon sun.



From **Colac Colac** we headed up towards **Tumbarumba**, stopping at an apple orchard in **Batlow** where we bought some peaches and the most delicious cherry pie.

We stopped briefly in Tumbarumba at a quaint little coffee shop just out of the shopping area and acquired some fruit at their Saturday farmer's market before moving on to **Tumut**. There we had a booking for a camp site under a shady tree, but the heat was getting at us with the temperature persistently above 35C which we did not seem to tolerate very well. Was it age?

The heat persisted overnight with the temperature not dropping below 25C and, with difficult weather forecast to persist, we made the decision to head for home in the morning.

See you next trip!

Richard

At my age,
"getting lucky" ...



means finding my car
in the parking lot!

METALWORK 101 - PART 2

By David Muir

Not all our readers will wish to make models as a hobby, but for those who do, these articles (4 of them) may prove invaluable. David Muir is a member of the Australian Plastic Modellers Association, the following notes are a very rough guide to model making with metal. They are mainly things David has found by trial and error and he is sure that there are lots of alternative techniques and materials out there. David hopes that they may encourage others to have a crack at this small niche within the modelmaking as a hobby.

HOW TO USE METALS

ANNEALING

All of these metals harden when they are worked. Most of the things we do to metal (eg hammering, bending and stretching) will harden it. Continuous working leads to the metal failing by cracking, a process better known as metal fatigue.

The cure for work hardening is annealing – i.e. heating the metal to a given temperature and then allowing it to cool at a controlled rate - which reverses the process, but it must be done before it forms cracks. The annealing process can be repeated each time the metal has been worked, the rule being: **anneal early and anneal often.**

Heating the metal to a dull red followed by air cooling is fine for the sizes/thicknesses brass, silvers and steels we use. Larger sizes, thicker pieces and some metals (notably steel) need to be quenched in water or oil as this also hardens the surface, which is useful in some non-modelling applications.

Aluminium melts at a much lower temperature and thus annealing it needs a lot more care. The trick is to make a mark on the piece with a Sharpie, then gently build up heat until the mark disappears, then allow the piece to air cool. Again, **anneal early and often.**

FINISHING

Surfaces can be prepared in much the same way as styrene (i.e. shaped, filed, sanded) before they are finished. Polishing works in the same way as sanding: start with a coarse grit and then work up through the grades to your finest.

Flexi Files are great for sanding joints in tube structures. Polishing pastes intended for alloy 'mag' wheels are useful as are liquid polishes such as Brasso and Silvo or any of the Goddards products that are normally used to clean silverware.

Anything with a copper content can be blackened using liver salts but, be warned, the process stinks and should be done outside to preserve domestic harmony. There are various blackening fluids available from the usual hobby sources (eg Uschi van der Rosen) and, for steel, gun 'bluing' kits.

Heat staining stainless (eg for exhaust pipes) is easy: just heat until you get your desired rainbow of orange, red and blue.

Of course it is possible to paint metal parts and there are a number of clear lacquers available to help protect metal surface finishes.

However, adhesion is an issue unless the paint is specifically formulated for that purpose. Most paint manufacturers have etching primers and finish coats designed for application on metals and they are widely available in enamel, acrylic and lacquer form.

TOOLS: SAWS

None of the usual modellers saws work very well on metals. The best option by far is a 'C' style jeweler's saw with a selection of 3/0 and 4/0 blades and possibly some 8/0 blades for ultra-thin sheet.

Green Lion in the US make the best ones for around \$100 but Chinese knock-offs that are adequate for our work are available from Ebay for around \$20.



cont. p. 18

cont. from p.17

Blades are widely available but Swiss made Vallorbe or Super Pike are excellent and inexpensive. Blades should always be mounted with their teeth pointing toward the handle so that they cut only on the 'pull' stroke

Use the saw in conjunction with a peg 'G' **clamped** to your bench and try to keep the blade vertical at all times. It should move like the head of a sewing machine; i.e. only using vertical strokes.

Practice on scrap styrene, then move onto metal once your muscle memory kicks in.

The trick when sawing is to hold the piece firmly and flat to the peg with your free hand and rotate the piece (not the saw!) to change direction.

Rather than use a saw, snip smaller diameter wire and tube roughly to length with a pair of side cutters, then file and/or sand back to their final dimensions.

All decent quality side cutters are rated for the maximum thicknesses and materials they can accommodate and usually have their limits printed on the inside of their handles. Don't exceed their capabilities.

File or sand using jeweler's files or SMS Fine (blue) sanding boards. Preferably use good quality #2 cut Swiss (eg Glardon-Vallorbe) files; one half round and one round 'rat tail' will deal with most jobs.

For making 'birdmouths' in tubing use the edge of the half round to make the first nick, then the rat tail to form the 'birdmouth' itself.

For very small tubes a rat tail #2 cut Escapement file is handy but be warned they cost a fair bit and need careful handling!

As with almost all modelling processes the key is to hold the pieces securely while you are working on them.

It pays to keep a selection of clamps handy and pin vices are pretty much essential for holding small diameter rods and tubing while you work on them.

I usually have three or four with different sized collets on my bench as I hate fiddling about changing from one drill and collet size to the next.



SOURCES

The following is a list of supplies and sources I have used in the past and that have given good service. Many are available from the various online sources such as Amazon and Ebay and frequently from places such as Jaycar that have regular discount sales. It pays to shop around.

Saw frames and blades, pegs, files, solder boards, solder wire, T pins, picks, liver salts are all available from:

Twin Plaza Metals (twinplaza.com) or

Australian Jewellers Supplies: (www.jewellerssupplies.com.au)



**THIS IS WHY THE WELSH
DON'T PLAY SCRABBLE**



YOUR NEXT TRIP TO THE LOO COULD SAVE YOUR LIFE

From “Mate, you Right”, the newsletter of the Special Envoy for Men’s Health

If you’re between 45 and 74, here’s something worth thinking about next time you head to the dunny.

Bowel cancer can creep up with no symptoms at all, but the good news is, if it’s caught early, more than 90% of cases can be successfully treated. That’s massive.

That’s why it’s so important to do your free at-home bowel screening test every two years. It’s quick, simple, and could literally save your life.

So fellas (and ladies), when that little test kit arrives in the mail, don’t shove it in a drawer. Do the test. Post it back. You’ll be glad you did.

Australian Government | NATIONAL BOWEL CANCER SCREENING PROGRAM

Free Home Test Kit

4 easy steps that could help save your life.

PATHOLOGY SERVICES | SONIC HEALTHCARE

scan for more info

health.gov.au/nbcsp



QUICK ONE-LINERS,

Contributed by Graham Ely

If you take exception to any of them, you know who to blame?

1. I've just finished reading a book about the world's greatest basement; it was a best cellar.
2. This is Diarrhea Awareness Week; runs till Friday.
3. It's my first week working at the bicycle factory, and they already made me a spokesperson.
4. Horses have lower divorce rates; it's because they are in stable relationships.
5. My laptop caught pneumonia; apparently, I left Windows open.
6. Swimming with dolphins is expensive but swimming with sharks; costs an arm & a leg.
7. If I run in front of a car, I'll get tired, but if I run behind a car, I'll get exhausted.
8. Teachers told me I'd never amount to much cause I procrastinate. I told them “Just you wait”.
9. 90% of bald people still own a comb; they just can't part with it.
10. Every morning, I get hit by the same bicycle . It's a vicious cycle.
11. The word ‘incorrectly’ is spelled ‘incorrectly’ in every dictionary.
12. I've been experimenting with breeding racing deer. People have accused me of just trying to make a fast buck.
13. A row of rabbits hopping backwards is called a receding hare line.
14. Nudists are always trustworthy; they have nothing to hide.
15. Do you know, somebody actually complimented me on my driving today. They left a little note on my windscreen which said PARKING FINE.
16. Men at 25 play football, men at 40 play tennis, men at 60 play golf. Have you noticed what happens as they grow older? Their balls get smaller!
17. When two people make love, it's called a two-some. When three people make love, it's called a three-some. Now I understand why they call me Handsome.

BOO-BOOOOM!



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!!

