



WAVERLEY COMMUNITY  
MEN'S SHED INC.

# SCUTTLEBUTT

## WCMS MEMBERS' NEWSLETTER

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

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



# WCMS

# 13th

# Birthday Party

at the Men's Shed,  
War Memorial Hospital, Waverley  
12:00 noon, Wednesday  
**22nd July 2026**

Please bring a dish (and indicate on the  
Notice Board) or \$30,  
more details: Mike Barker 0418978552.

*Volunteers before and after the event are essential  
and appreciated*



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



# VERY GRATEFUL THANKS

Dear Everyone at the Men's Shed

We are writing to you to express our deepest appreciation to you for the profound and positive impact you had on the life of our beloved father, **Harry Jacobs**.

Some years ago, our mother's health deteriorated through pain and illness. Harry was devoted to her and it felt like his world began to shrink too. While he did have interests and hobbies and social engagements outside the house, it became increasingly apparent that he needed something else that would provide him with passion and purpose. He found all of this in spades, at the Waverley Men's Shed. He loved the collegiality he found, the genuine warmth of the people at the Shed, your willingness to teach and help, your expertise and craftsmanship, the provision of a space where he could express his creativity and make beautiful objects, artefacts and toys for the people he loved. The act of making and creating, giving away the fruits of his labour, and then seeing his creations being used or valued, honestly brought him immense joy.

We are sure that you know that the Men's Shed became one of the most important and meaningful aspects of his life in the last few years, so much so, that he created "Workshop Number 2" in his garage (where he set up some of the tools he wasn't allowed to use at the Shed!), and "Workshop Number 3" in the internal laundry (so that he could work inside the home to be near our mother).

We were all so happy that Harry found new purpose, important friendships and creative opportunities in such a warm and supportive place that is the Waverley Men's Shed. We will always be extremely grateful to you all.

Kindest regards

**Mark Jacobs, Donna Manoy and Elana Jacobs**



## MAY "SOCIAL FRIDAY"

5 Members and a wife came along for this social function on 29th June, enjoyed by all who attended. Where were you???



## NEXT "SOCIAL FRIDAY"

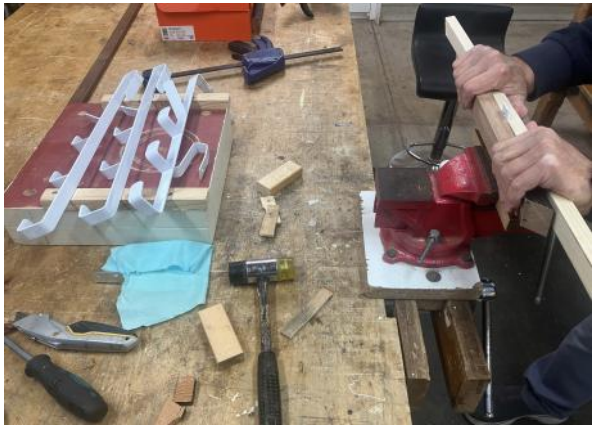
Members and friends are invited to meet again for

**SOCIAL FRIDAY,  
at 12 noon on 26 June  
at Maroubra Seals, Maroubra Beach.**

This venue overlooks the Beach, those attending can get together and eat (or not eat), have drinks (or not) 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 attending along with you, you can get discounts on food and drinks. So, come along!!



# SHED GOINGS-ON (CURRENT PROJECTS ETC.)



Albert Verdian is straightening and re-bending *hanging brackets* for his wife's pot-plants in their home (left)



Ian Dawes has made a *folding picnic table* (right)



Jeff Silberbach is turning a *bowl* to add to large collection of odd sized bowls he has turned previously (left)



New member **Mathew Liminana** has made *toast tongs* (right)



Mo Dhanoya is making pens, but he has also made a *wooden penholder* (left)

A couple of years ago, some camelia branch off-cuts were given to the Shed, **Peter Charlton** used one to make a *handle* for a skew chisel adapted from a spade drill bit.



cont. p.4

cont. from p.3

**Rodney Goldberg** helps out at the Royal Children's Hospital and is assisting a young child with just one hand who needs an aid to cut paper. Rodney has come up with a gadget that uses a **magnetic grip**. Well done, Rodney!!



Waverley Council asked for lettering for **the Waverley Community Gardens**, so **Ian Dawes** and **Mo Dhanoya** set about cutting them from 20mm marine ply.



New member **Shein Wang** has fitted right in, making a **mah-jong table for her family** (above) Shein is also making a **mail box** for her home (left)



There are lots of repairs to be done at the Shed all the time. **Rodney Goldberg** and **Sid Lewinsky** restored a **table vice** that was not functioning efficiently (right). **Thanks guys!**



**Mo Dhanoya** has made 2 made-to-measure **shoe boxes** for Sandy Wolf (left)



**Ian Dawes** is making a **toy fire engine**, along with a ladder that can be raised (right)





# "ROSIE THE RIVETER" REPORT

By Phyll Sakinofsky

This new report introduces the work and projects created by our women members.

The Shed has opened up for women this year, starting with a cohort of 7 keen trainees.



They're a mixed bag of women – just like the men – with different levels of skill and competency but all eager to learn and improve.

Some arrived armed with ideas for projects but for the most, myself included, it has provided the chance to see what's possible and where we can go from here.

The introductory course recently completed has been a resounding success, we thank **Kenny Lazarus, Sid Lewinsky and William Honeyball** for their incredible input.



# RATTAN CHAIR REPAIRS



A few months ago, we reported that **Peter Black** was restoring a family heirloom rattan chair, and that he was assisted by **Dave Colwell** in this projects. The chair restoration is now finished, a great learning experience for both Peter and Dave.



For those requiring material and advice in carrying out a similar project, the necessary rattan material is available in various designs from the **House of Bamboo**, 13 Erith St, Botany.



# ATTENTION ALL TABLE SAW USERS!

A REMINDER THAT  
NEEDS NO WORDS!!



# WOMEN'S INTRODUCTION TO WOODWORKING (Course 2)

After the success of Course 1 which introduced 7 women to woodworking techniques, it has now been decided to start another course to run for 7 weeks, commencing at the Shed on 7th July 2026.

**We are looking for another cohort of women applicants, all Applications to be made to the Secretary:**  
[<secretary@waverleycommunitymensshed.org.au>](mailto:secretary@waverleycommunitymensshed.org.au)

# BIRD OF THE MONTH

Article and photo by Ian Dawes

## Sahul Sunbird - *Cinnyris jugularis*

Stunning bird found in coastal Queensland. There are many other sunbirds in the world, but only one in Australia. It has been variously described as the Olive-backed or Yellow-bellied Sunbird. These birds can hover briefly – their main food source is nectar or insects. The male



has a dark gorget which shines iridescent blue in sunlight. Sunbirds make wonderful nests that hang from building overhangs or even from a rope suspended from the ceiling.

The nests are painstakingly constructed by both male and female from spiders' webs and fine plant material - they even have a neat roof covering the entrance.

The one shown on the right was on a rope hanging next to the bar at the resort on Dunk Island (before cyclone Yasi destroyed the resort).

The female sunbird is also striking, but lacks the bright blue throat of the male..



## HINTS & TRICKS

### CORRECT BODY POSITIONING AND STANCE



**Proper stance** provides stability and control while positioning the operator away from potential injury zones. You should position yourself to maintain balance throughout the cutting motion while keeping your body clear of the blade path according to safety protocols.

#### Optimal Stance Technique

- **Balanced position:** Stand with feet shoulder-width apart for stability during feeding motion
- **Side positioning:** Never stand directly behind the board where kick-back could cause injury
- **Weight distribution:** Maintain balanced weight distribution to react quickly if problems develop
- **Clear exit path:** Ensure room to step away quickly if emergency situations arise
- **Comfortable reach:** Position allows natural feeding motion without overreaching



SHED 13<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY PARTY  
WED 22<sup>ND</sup> JULY 12 PM  
PLEASE BRING A DISH OR \$30.  
AND INDICATE ON NOTICE BOARD  
THANKS MIKE BARKER  
0418978552.



# JULY WHO'S THIS MEMBER?

This month we feature a **Waverley Shed** member photographed at about 15 years old. He attends the Shed regularly

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

Entries should be sent to the Editor: [tom@aces.net.au](mailto:tom@aces.net.au)



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# JUNE WHO'S THIS MEMBER? - ANSWER

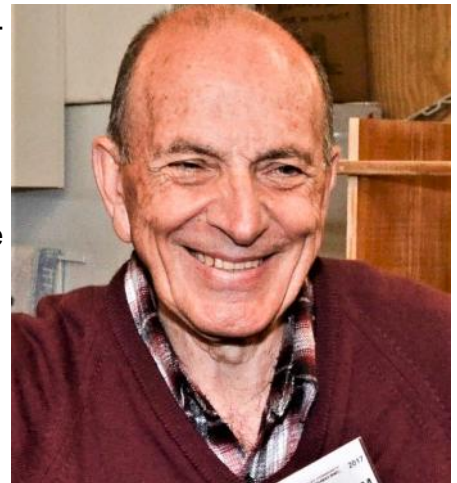


The photo is that of our long-time member

## Tony Mandarano

And here is what he looks like *now*.

**AND NO ATTEMPTS AT AN ANSWER WERE RECEIVED!!**



How come I can remember song lyrics from the 60's, ...

but I can't remember what I came to this room for??





# NATURE'S DROPPINGS WILL DESTROY YOUR CAR'S PAINT

Leaving bird droppings on your car's paint is quite possibly one of the worst things you can do for the longevity and gloss of the overall finish. However, there is one bird in Australia that has the ability to do a 'fly-by' bombing on your car and actually strip the paint off over time.

Bird, bat, and other animal and plant droppings will ruin the finish on your paint if left unattended. Bird and bat droppings have a high acid level, which can make it hard to remove when left for a long time, and it can even damage the paint when left out in the sun.

## What damages car paint?

Anything that has a pH above or under seven, so anything acidic or alkaline, like bug guts, bird poo, acid rain, should be removed ASAP to avoid chemical etching.

Even drinking water lies within the range 6.5–8.5, so normal tap water has the potential to damage your paint if it's not protected, so it's important to know the pH of your contaminant to assess the time frame in which you should remove it to avoid chemical etching.

## The worst type of bird droppings for your car's paint

This is where the common starling comes in. The bird that was introduced to Australia as a means of pest control for farm crops arrived in Victoria in the 1850s. Sure enough, they did not help with pest control and quickly spread across the state.

Settlers in Sydney did not get the message and introduced them two decades later – now their populations are in the tens of millions, outcompeting native birds for nesting hollows, especially in urban environments.

If destroying habitats for native birds wasn't enough reason to have a vendetta against the starling, their droppings contain high levels of uric acid – enough to damage the paint on your house and car.



Even the droppings of native bats (most common being the grey-headed flying foxes) are actually less acidic than those of the common starling. So, keep an eye out for this bird, it could ruin your paint.

The uric acid starlings drop is key to their survival, allowing them to retain water within their bodies and have a varied diet of everything from insects to berries.

You can find common starlings on the east coast of Australia from as far north as Cairns, Queensland, all the way down to Tasmania. As far inland as Coober Pedy; however, they never migrated to Western Australia.

Starling droppings have a dark, solid appearance, and splatter a white chalky substance that is the uric acid. It looks similar to normal bird poop, but because they tend to hang around in large groups, you'll often find large amounts of it, enough to cover a car.

You can also distinguish between regular bird droppings and starling droppings by the smell, which is described as 'overwhelmingly unpleasant'.

Leaving it on your paint will cause it to etch into the paint – leaving a matte colour over your gloss paint, and in some extreme cases with already damaged clear coat, it will lift the colour off your car completely.

The best thing you can do for your paint is to remove any droppings from your car as soon as possible.

Plenty of bird species have uric acid, albeit not as concentrated as a common starling, so just a few minutes with a hose and some car wash will keep your paint glossy.

cont. p.10

cont. from p.9

If you've let it sit, don't stress, you can still fix it.

However, starlings and bird poo in general isn't the only hazard for car paint. The damage caused to your car paint by the droppings of native bats has already been referred to in this article.

In fact, anything that has low pH can do the damage – people whose cars are left under mango trees can vouch for that.

Also, in November each year, the light purple flowers from the introduced Jacaranda tree cover the roads and cars, and car lovers have



learned to keep their cars away from these flowers like the plague.

They don't need to be an introduced species, the Moreton Bay Fig tree is a native, but droppings from this tree can cause a multitude of problems with your car's paintwork

This list is just touches the tip of the iceberg, but the message is the same, act fast when nature drops in on you.

**Whether bird or plant, introduced or native, your paintwork can be attacked from all sources. The only real remedy is immediate action.**



## MEN'S HEALTH CHECK UP

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

Men are great at looking after the tools, the cars, the footy team, the things we enjoy - but when it comes to our own health? We're dropping the ball.

60% of blokes wait more than a week to see a doctor when something's not right.

1 in 3 wait over a month.

And while we're waiting, the numbers don't lie:

71% of men are overweight or obese

Men are 1.3 times more likely to have type 2 diabetes than women

Over 3,500 men die from prostate cancer every year

40% more men die from heart disease than women

Guys, this stuff is preventable. But only if we stop ignoring it. You wouldn't ignore a flat tire or engine problems for weeks, so why ignore chest pain, weird lumps or feeling off?

Get checked.

Book the bloody appointment.

Talk to your mates.

Don't wait until it's too late.

You've got people who need you around. Let's look after ourselves, no excuses

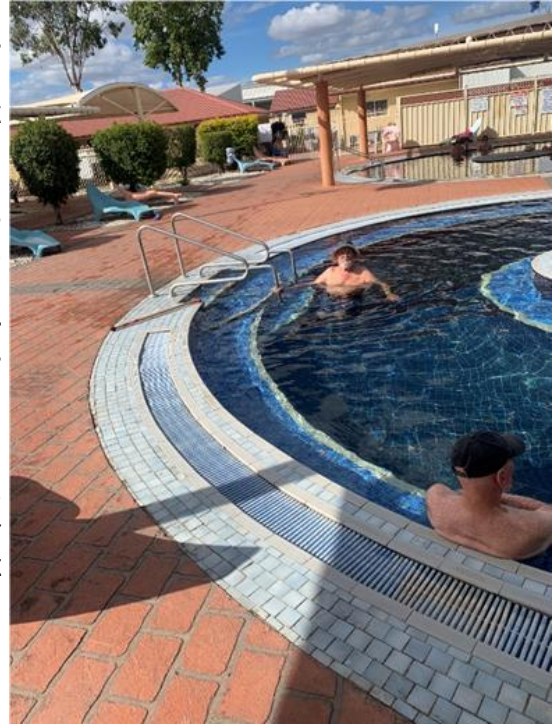


# RICHARD TRAVELS "BEYOND THE BLACK STUMP" - PART 1

Report and photos by Richard Cortis

When we thought the weather west of the Great Dividing Range was starting to cool sufficiently to enable comfortable travel, we headed north to central Queensland where we could explore a bit further and perhaps visit some hot artesian spa pools in the Great Artesian Basin which takes up a good proportion of central and western Queensland. We previously travelled up that way in August 2025 but we thought we would go a bit further this trip.

We headed north via **Pokolbin, Narrabri, Moree**, crossing the border into Queensland at **Mungindi**. Experiences in these towns were discussed in our report on the August 2025 trip, but we did stop in Moree for a bit of a soak and a laze in the pools at the **Gwydir Caravan Park** which we find particularly inviting (right). These pools are reputed to have significant health benefits for the elderly and arthritic. You just have to BELIEVE that the warm water is doing you some good.



Once in Queensland we stopped overnight in **St George** before heading north west to **Mitchell** where we stopped again to have a dip and a health-giving soak in the very pleasant artesian pool.(left)

Especially nice because we had a lovely kiosk lunch overlooking the pool. After leaving Mitchell we headed to **Morven**, a dot on the map roadhouse where the road trains tend to stop to refuel and take a rest. One road from Morven goes further west to **Charleville** with another road heading north

west to **Augathella**, another dot on the map which just happens to have a pleasant free camp at the bottom of the town that is right opposite the pub.

Rather than going to the pub, we set up our camp chairs under a gum tree and watched the sun set. After a quiet and restful night, we set off travelling north up the highway to **Tambo** where we stopped for the night because we could not resist going to the **chicken races in the hotel** just across the road. Our chicken did not win but we had a really good laugh and a nice pub dinner afterwards. Tambo is also the location of the first Qantas air crash but we did not investigate further.

In the morning we set off north to **Blackall** where we hoped to locate the mythical **Black Stump**. Blackall also has an artesian heated fifty metre council swimming pool with two smaller spa pools at warmer temperatures. It is an interesting pool with a "walk-in" concrete beach each side of the turning end. A really pleasant place to waste a couple of hours. As well as a caravan park and a couple of motels, there is a substantial free camp at the north end of the town. After some research and a rather lengthy relaxing swim, we actually located the Black Stump in the street, not far from the pool and along the back boundary of the school playing field.

cont. p.12

cont. from p.11

The Black Stump is located about a hundred and twenty kilometres south of the tropic of Capricorn but realistically far, far, to the west of everywhere.

In 1887, the Queensland Surveyor General established the original “astro station”, and the stump was used to hold large scientific equipment that took measurements to establish latitude and longitude in Blackall, establishing the positions of important centres from which survey work for the colony could be connected, ensuring accurate mapping of the entire State.



During this period, all country west of Blackall was described as “Beyond the Black Stump”.

This term soon entered folklore and became an Australian expression describing people and places outside of “civilisation”. Well, not actually the original Black Stump but a

bronze reconstruction after the original stump was destroyed by fire several decades ago.

There is also a brief history set out on an adjacent signboard which explains that the stump was the base for astronomical observations that located Blackall and the nearby towns.

In 1988, as a bicentennial project, a petrified stump was unveiled to commemorate the site

And so we moved on beyond Blackall to the **Never Never country** beyond the Black Stump. It is certainly different country out there.



We had not seen a hill since we left Moree and we became aware of the concept of the big sky. There are no tall buildings and only fairly low trees so the horizon is level all around with the big sky up above. Most houses are located at the homesteads, usually kilometres away from the main road down a dirt track, the only clue to their existence being the mail boxes, two hundred litre fuel drums mounted on a post with the name of the property and more than likely a dozen or so bullet holes. Most properties have an airstrip and a light plane for trips to town. Children do School of the Air until year six and then go to boarding school for their secondary education.



Another hundred kilometres up the highway is **Barcaldine** but, about thirty kilometres before the town there is a bush track turnoff to **Lara Wetlands** (photo left) which, apart from being an operating cattle station, has a hot artesian bore with a sizeable pool which then drains into a dam several times larger than the lakes in Centennial Park. For a fee, you can camp by the lake, bathe in the hot artesian pool and use the camping area facilities. It is a delightful place to camp and relax and it is only thirteen kilometres from the highway down one of those dirt tracks.

**TO BE CONTINUED**

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.

## THE SOLDERING PROCESS

The principles and methods are broadly the same for both Soft and Hard/Silver soldering.

1. The fit of the parts needs to be as tight as possible. Chamfer, 'birdmouth' or file the mating faces until they match as closely as you can make them. Solder is not a good filler and the 'hard' version in particular is difficult to reshape when cold.
2. The parts and solder must be clean! Carefully prepare the actual mating surfaces along with their immediate surrounds using a fine abrasive (e.g. Scotchbrite, 000 grade steel wool) or 600 grade (or finer) wet and dry paper.
3. Position and secure the parts in the desired relationship on a soldering board or (for 'soft' soldering) some scrap timber. These boards are simple, just blocks made from anything heat resistant that is soft enough to take 'T' pins but solid enough to hold them and/or support binding wire. They are usually made from mineral board, compressed charcoal, ceramics or other asbestos free materials. Alternately some ceramic plates and have a grid of closely spaced holes that accept small steel pegs which hold and locate the parts.
4. Use 'T' pins, pegs and/or binding wire to locate the parts on the block. Be careful to position any binding wire well away from the joint you are soldering. Where possible elevate the pieces a little above the board to minimize any contamination passing from the board to the work. One easy solution is to lay more 'T' pins on the board underneath the pieces. Third hands' also work and are useful for simple/quick setups. It is important to allow for expansion as metal can and will 'grow' a surprising amount when heated.
5. Once the pieces are correctly positioned, flux works as the final cleaning step and removes any remaining oxidation or contaminants. Gently warm the joint and use a 'pick' (a titanium probe like the one below) to apply a little flux to the joint.



Then snip off a small length of solder wire and use the pick to place it on the joint. When warmed flux is sticky and temporarily 'glues' the solder in place.

6. Begin applying heat evenly to area around the joint gradually focusing more and more on the joint itself. The flux will bubble away, leaving the solder (hopefully) resting on the joint. Use the pick to reposition it as needed. Keep applying heat until the solder 'flashes' and runs into the joint.

Solder *always* runs toward heat so try to position it on one side of the joint and the iron or flame the other side. With Hard soldering you can aim the torch at a point on the board *under* the piece, the solder on top will run toward it and make a perfect clean joint when it reaches the right temperature<sup>3</sup>

cont. p.14

cont. from p.13

7. Pull the T pins or pegs, any binding wire or remove it from the third hand then drop the part into pickle. Pickle is just a mildly acid liquid that cleans off any remaining flux. It is available commercially but it is easy and much cheaper to make your own. The recipe I use is: half a cup of white vinegar plus a tablespoon of table salt. It works OK cold but works quicker and better when gently warmed in a slow cooker.
8. Remove the piece from the pickle after half an hour or so, check it is flux free, repeat the pickling stage as needed and, when it is clean, wash it thoroughly. Carefully shape or clean off any excess solder with files, sandpaper and Flex Files.
9. Finish by sanding, polishing or painting to taste.

### ABOUT SOLDERS

Hard solders are sold by length or weight and are cheap. Keep them separated in clearly marked (preferably in their original) plastic packaging to minimize any oxidation.

Snip off short lengths with side cutters only as needed.

The most common newbie mistake is to use too much solder.

The temptation with Soft solder is to heat the part(s) and touch the joint with the tip of the solder wire.

This is how electronic components – where appearance doesn't matter - are soldered and unless you are really skilled always makes an unsightly blob.

This is the main reason a lot of models have over filled and lumpy connections that destroy any sense of a them being a miniaturized version of a 1:1 scale brazed or welded joint.

So, use the least possible amount of solder as it makes for much more scale looking joints and a lot less cleanup.

For a typical tube frame in (say) 24th scale to be made with 1mm diameter tubes you only need at most a 1 to 1½ millimeter length of 0.5mm solder wire to join them.

When in doubt use less rather than more; you can usually go back and add a little more in the event you get a “dry” joint.

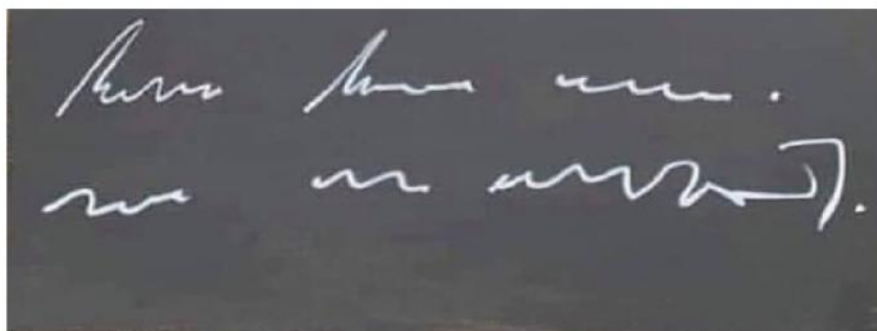
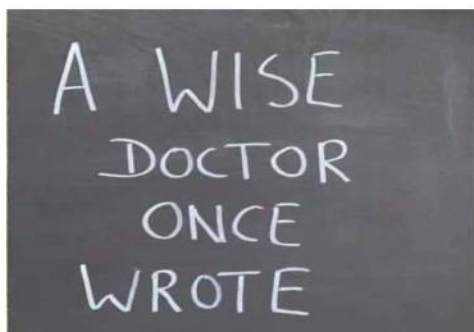


### GENERALLY

Like many scratch building tasks when working with metals it is best to start big and cut the part to size later; the surplus makes a convenient handle for any subsequent work, i.e. leave all or part of the components oversize and trim them to length after you have completed all (or at least the majority) of the soldering and finishing work.

## WARNING

**And as always be careful as many of the processes used when working with metals have attached risks, including cuts, burns and toxicity. Be careful, read and follow the advice on the safety data sheets and always wear appropriate PPE.**





In order to comply with privacy requirements we can't call our patients by their name.



Would the lady with hemorrhoids, please come in!



## SUGGESTED DICTIONARY ENTRIES

Contributed by Peter Black

**Cashtration (n):** The act of buying a house, which renders the subject financially impotent for an indefinite period of time.

**Ignoranus:** A person who's both stupid and an asshole.

**Intaxication:** Euphoria at getting a tax refund, which lasts until you realise it was your money to start with.

**Reintarnation:** Coming back to life as a hillbilly.

**Bozone (n):** The substance surrounding stupid people that stops bright ideas from penetrating. The bozone layer, unfortunately, shows little sign of breaking down in the near future.

**Foreploy:** Any misrepresentation about yourself for the purpose of getting laid.

**Giraffiti:** Vandalism spray painted very, very high.

**Sarchasm:** The gulf between the author of sarcastic wit and the person who doesn't get it.

**Inoculatte:** To take coffee intravenously when you are running late.

**Osteopornosis:** A degenerative disease (This one got extra credit).

**Karmageddon:** It's like, when everybody is sending off all these really bad vibes, right? And then, like, the Earth explodes and it's like, a serious bummer.

**Decafhalon (n):** The gruelling event of getting through the day consuming only things that are good for you.

**Glibido:** All talk and no action.

**Dopeler Effect:** The tendency of stupid ideas to seem smarter when they come at you rapidly.

**Arachnoleptic Fit (n):** The frantic dance performed just after you've accidentally walked through a spider web.

**Beelzebug (n):** Satan in the form of a mosquito, that gets into your bedroom at three in the morning and cannot be cast out.

**Caterfallor (n):** The colour you turn when you discover half a worm in the fruit you're eating

### Sex after surgery

A recent article in the Daily Post reported that a man, Dave Harper, has sued St Paul's Hospital, saying that after his wife had surgery there, she lost all interest in sex.

A hospital spokesman replied:

"Mrs Harper was admitted for cataract surgery. All we did was correct her eyesight."



# 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!!

