



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!



WAVERLEY COMMUNITY MEN'S SHED

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

will be held at 1:00pm on Wednesday, 14th October, 2026
at the Men's Shed in the grounds of
The War Memorial Hospital, 125 Birrell Street, Waverley.

The Executive Committee and Board Members for 2026/27 will be elected at this meeting.

Members are invited to give consideration to stand for the various positions that need to be filled for the ongoing conduct of our Shed. This is particularly important with the day-to-day issues that we foreshadow will arise in this coming year.

Formal notices and all relevant forms will be made available by the Secretary.

DAYLIGHT SAVING

A busy night at Stonehenge as workers move
all the stones forward one hour ...

OCTOBER 4





FATHER'S DAY ACTIVITY AT BUNNINGS, RANDWICK

Peter Black, Nick Tyrrell and Mo Dhanoya, members of the Waverley Shed attended the Bunnings store at Randwick on 3rd September 2026 for their Father's Day activity. Bunnings is a great supporter of our Shed.



Nick Tyrrell had been busy for many weeks preparing *toy cars*, ready for assembly and gifting to the children who came along.

SPOUSES/PARTNERS/SINGLES DINNER

This is the dinner where we thank our spouses/partners (or come on your own) for letting us come to the Shed. We have held many successful dinners in the past, but this one will be different, we need to book out the entire venue, maximum seating is 30!!

For this reason we need everyone interested to reserve their places, first come first served!!

Date: **OCTOBER 27, 2026**

Time: **6:00 pm**

Venue: **HUNG'S CHINESE RESTAURANT
29 St.Paul's St, Randwick**

Menu: **We will be served a banquet, fixed price.**

We have requested that no pork dishes be served

Please reserve your place/s by advising Peter Black of your intention to attend (indicating the size of your party) ... write it on the whiteboard!!

NEXT "SOCIAL FRIDAY"

Members and friends are invited to meet again for

**at 12 noon on 25 September
(last Friday of the month)
at Maroubra Seals, Maroubra 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 (although membership is just \$5.50 p.a.), and if there's a Club member attending on the day, you can get discounts on food and drinks. So, come along!!



THE WOODEN PLATTERS

In late August the Shed was commissioned to put the finishing touches to 80 wooden (camphor laurel) platters to be used in a restaurant environment. The project laid idle until Peter Black challenged the members present one afternoon to do a small number each.

Instead, those present decided to get it over and done with and with a huge communal effort it was done.

The photos are not necessarily in sequential order, but we're sure you will get the idea.



Pre internet chat room using an old version of Windows ...



SHED GOINGS-ON (CURRENT PROJECTS ETC.)

We often report that *“the making of possum boxes continues”*. These boxes are made for WIRES, who order a large number annually, but we also make them for members of the public who use them locally. Here is Peter Charlton with *another happy local customer* (right)



Kenny Lazarus has made a pair of **easels** for his wife to display family photos (left)

Grant Levy is making an **end-grain chopping board** (right)



Tom Wolf has painted the “**N-gauge**” **buildings** to be installed into a model train layout (left)



Albert Verdian is turning a **plate** (right)

As a project that lay idle while **Kenny Lazarus** worked on other projects (and mostly helped other members with their projects), Kenny has now finished his **Hanukkah Menorah** (left)



Steve Fox is making a **toilet roll holder** for home (right).



Shein Wang has **recycled a picture frame** (left) by adding Perspex to the frame, and has also **recycled an easel** with help from **Kenny Lazarus** and **William Honeyball**.

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cont. from p.4



Ian Dawes is instructing **Fiona Coogan** and **Phyll Sakinofsky** on the **safe use** of the large bandsaw. (left)



Sid Lewinsky and **Tony Mandarano** are making a **sign** for Tony's garden patch at home (right)



Gary Levy is making a **dovetail step-stool** (right)



Eric Wong made a **Sugar Glider Nest Box** for the Sydney Wildlife Rescue Service which was picked up from the Shed by Dianne Jenner. Both Dianne and Eric are pleased with the result. (left)

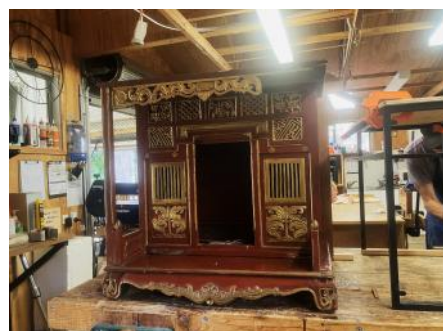


Tom Wolf is making **baseboards** for an "N-gauge" (1:160 scale) model railway layout (right).



Sid Lewinsky is turning a **spindle** (left)

John Bailey is making a **spoon holder** (right)



A **Buddhist prayer box** is an altar for protection and healing. **Graham Ely** is repairing a box for a community member (left)



Kenny Lazarus has made a **router jig** to rout-out the centre of a piece of wood (right)

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As one of the women who attend regularly on Wednesdays, **Phyll Sakinofsky** is making **wooden ear-rings** (above)



Grant Levy is working on the lathe, turning a camphor laurel **bowl** (left)



Fiona Coogan is under instruction on the lathe from **Ian Dawes**. Fiona is turning a **bowl** (right)



Shein Wang shows off the **shelf** she has made for her home (left)

Peter Ulmer continues making picture (and mirror) **frames** from aluminium cans (right)



The food platters made for a community member (see article page 3) was so successful that he has now asked the Shed to make larger platters (left)

Richard Cortis has made **brass pedestal stands** for **Tom Wolf's** ship model (right)





A "VOTE OF THANKS" MORNING TEA

Over the past few months, **Kenny Lazarus** and **Sid Lewinsky** completed 2 very successful **"Introduction to Woodworking" Courses** for our female members.

The ladies decided to show their **appreciation** for the fantastic instruction they received by inviting all the members of the Waverley Shed to a morning tea catered by them and thanking Kenny and Sid in person.

On 2nd September we gathered at the Shed and partook in fabulous food prepared by the ladies. The event is best illustrated by the photos that were taken.

A good time was had by all, thank you ladies!



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PIERRE'S MODEL CARS

We know that **Pierre Carrion's** projects are innovative and "out there". His latest project has been making **model cars** using his own thoughts and without a purchased (or "borrowed") pattern or design. We are sure that you will agree that the results are extraordinary!

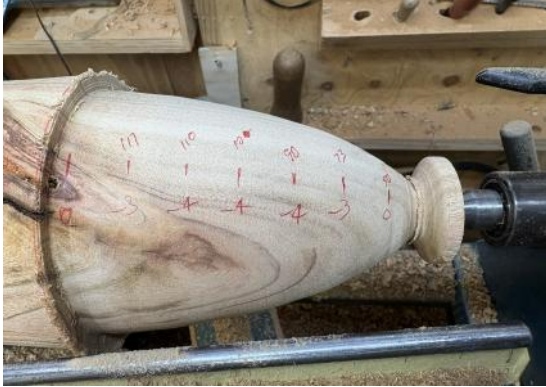


Well done Pierre!!



NO, THEY ARE NOT FOOTBALLS!! THEY ARE SEED PODS!

The **Canberra Art Biennial** has commissioned artists to create works in conjunction with the **National Seed Bank** for display in **Australian National Botanic Gardens** that respond to storied and histories from 65,000 years to the present day within the landscape of Canberra.



Anna May Kirk, one of the artists commissioned requested the Waverley Shed to make, from her design, a number of seed pod shapes from different timbers as part of the proposed artwork.

Ian Dawes and **Peter Charlton** spent many days turning 5 'seed pods' using **Red Cedar**, **Tasmanian Blackwood**, **Camphor Laurel**, **New Guinea Rosewood** and **Pacific Mahogany**, which were all well received.



BRAINFREEZE

OK HONEY, WE WON'T
LOSE THE KEYS TO
THE PADLOCK!

RECENT CORTIS PROJECTS



READING STAND

Richard Cortis has a friend who had trouble holding his iPad to read whilst sitting or propped up in bed so he built a stand from some scrap ply and a couple of hinges (photo right) that he found on the shelf. It worked so well for the friend, that Richard made one for himself to hold up those floppy floppy magazines that he reads.



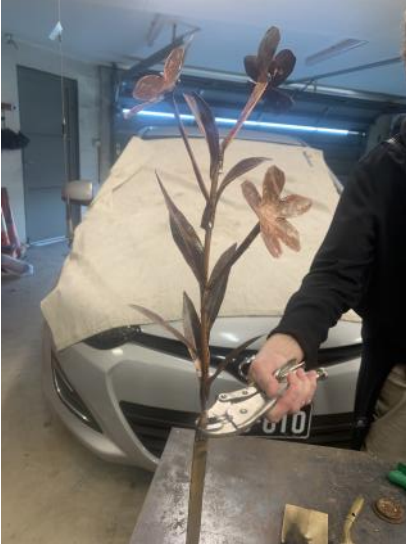
This is a really simple project that can be completed to take home in a couple of hours

COPPER FLOWER ARTWORK

As a project together with his grandson, Richard made this flower artwork from copper (photo left) cut with tin snips and beaten into shape with a ball pane hammer.

The work was assembled using ordinary 50/50 plumbers solder, some flux and a propane flame.

Richard gives thanks to Peter Charlton for supplying the scrap copper sheet from Peter's remedial roofing project.



STEEL FLOWER AND BIRD ARTWORK

Much less elaborate but still very attractive, is this steel flower design made by Richard from bits and pieces he has found in his garage.. If anyone wants it, it is "for sale" with proceeds to go to the Shed.

Richard has also made various metal bird design cut-outs for your garden, and his spoon billed duck made from various utensils shows how much fun he has making these things.



SHARPENERS BOX

As a project for the Shed, Richard made a storage box for the different sized sharpening tools.

Really useful!!





JAPANESE TEAHOUSE WINDOW

Photos by Garth Alperstein



Back in April 2026, and then again in the August 2026 issues of Scuttlebutt we reported that **Garth Alperstein** and his wife **Melissa** are building a *Japanese style teahouse* in their backyard (see photo top left).



In August we reported on how Garth had made a circular window to be installed in the teahouse (see photo top right).



Garth has sent us a photo (bottom left) of the circular window frame installation in situ, we hope to bring you a report of the finished project in due course.



LEARNING SOMETHING NEW EVERY DAY

I mentioned to **Sid Lewinsky** that I was putting a photo of the hot-pot holders that he and **Kenny Lazarus** were making for their families into the newsletter, and Sid informed me that these objects were called “trivets”.



One of the meanings of that word is *“an object that is placed between a serving dish, bowl, pot, or pan and a dining table, usually to protect the table from heat damage”*. It's good to keep an open mind and to learn something new every day!

Thanks Sid!

MIKE'S ENDEAVOUR



The longest continuous project in the Shed, **Tom Wolf** is repairing/restoring/rebuilding a model of **HMB Endeavour** for **Mike Wheihen**,

The model has significant emotional value as the original model was built by Mike's uncle and suffered severe damage to its entire above deck area in transit from Melbourne

So far more than 300 hours have been invested into the model over the past 18 months.

Although there is much left to do, Tom feels that the end is very near, maybe by Christmas!



HINTS & TRICKS



APPLY TAPE TO STOP GLUE OOOZING FROM JOINTS

One of the most frustrating items a cabinet maker will experience is woodworking glue seeping through two joints, and the time needed to clean up that mess.

If you're attempting to glue multiple pieces of wood together, clamp them together and apply a strip of tape along the joints. Then, cut the joint on the tape and loosen the clamp to permit some space between the two pieces. Apply the glue along the middle and clamp the two pieces.

The glue will naturally ooze – but when it dries, it will bond to the tape – and not the wood. This reduces clean-up and makes it easy to peel the tape off when the drying has completed.



**FINALLY, I GOT
MY SINK FIXED!**





BIRD OF THE MONTH (#17)

Article and photos by Ian Dawes

Sacred Kingfisher - *Todiramphus sanctus*

These can be found around Australia, except for desert regions.

Right: Five fledglings rescued in Coogee after the palm tree containing their nest was cut down on Christmas Eve. They were cared for by **Joan Dawes** - a member of WIRES - and were released several weeks later. Some stayed around in the area for some time even as adults.



The orange (loral) spot just behind the beak is diagnostic for sacred kingfishers



These are tree kingfishers (ones that hunt from tree perches and eat a range of animals including lizards, invertebrates and occasionally fish)

The majority of Australian kingfishers (including kookaburras) are not really specialised for catching fish, although they do so occasionally.

On Lord Howe Island there is a slightly larger and brighter subspecies **vagans** seen on the right.

Be grateful that no matter how much chocolate you eat, ...



your earrings still fit.



RE-WORKING AN ANTIQUE FOR THE MODERN WORLD

By Peter Charlton

At the Shed, we were asked whether we do modifications to old furniture. When we said "yes", we were offered the opportunity of taking a small cedar table that was in quite good condition and of lovely design but had a major problem.

The major problem was that it was effectively useless, because it was too low and knees could not fit underneath it. The owner wanted the table to be used as a modern desk for a notebook computer.

The top of the table was 680mm from the floor whereas an ideal desk height is about 750mm.

The table had a single drawer underneath the top which meant that the height under the drawer was only 530mm, far too low to get knees under. To be able to accommodate knees the gap should be of the order of 640mm.

One option to make the table useful would involve just lengthening the legs by 110mm, but this would mean that the top height would go to 790mm, too high for most peoples' convenient use.

A second option was to make two changes, first take out the drawer and make it look as if the table never had a drawer and then lengthen the legs by just 87mm. The customer chose this second option.

Taking out the drawer was relatively easy except that the design had some nice trim running around the bottom of the desk, which needed to be carried around into where the drawer had been. The photo shows the new trim being measured to fit where that drawer had been.

The table had been handmade, and on measuring each of the four legs we found that there were significant differences in the diameter at the bottom of the old legs where we planned to fit the extensions.



So, four leg extensions were made with each being 87mm long but each a different diameter to match the different leg diameters. The extensions were attached to the legs with dowels. The photo shows an extension before the new cedar was stained to suit.

Another issue was that the table was very old and had been coated with some sort of varnish that was very thick, and on the legs and below the top surface it was almost black in colour.

There's nothing wrong with black except that it hid the beautiful grain in the timber and it was so thick that it had crazed which did not look very pleasant.

It was found that the varnish came off quite easily when rubbed with 'OOOO' steel wool, and a lot of methylated spirits.

We found that if the old varnish was totally removed it left the legs a much lighter colour than the rest of the table.

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The solution was to soften the varnish with metho, allowing just some of it to be taken off so removing most of the crazing only slightly lightening the colour, and letting the timber grain show.

The photos on the far left show the crazed varnish and to its right show where the varnish has been softened and smoothed. It polished up well.

The last thing to do was to rework the top. The customer liked the patina.

Yes, he wanted the table to be well polished but the scratches and imprint from a lifetime's use needed to stay.

Again, we softened the surface with methylated spirits and removed just part of the old polish.

Once softened and allowed to dry, it polished up really well to make a lovely looking table.

Our customer was very pleased with a table that was beautiful and useful but did not look brand new. It remained an antique.

The photos below show the table "before and after".



**What's the difference
between ignorance
and indifference?**



**I don't know, and I
don't care!**



DON'T FALL FOR SCAMMERS PRETENDING TO BE YOUR BANK!!

Scammers are getting smarter, and they are using our name to trick customers like you.

If you receive an unexpected call, SMS, or email claiming to be from your Bank about an "urgent" account issue, stop for a moment and think carefully - it could be a scam.

How bank impersonation scams work

- Scammers pretend to be from your Bank to gain access to your money or personal information. They might:
- Call, email, or text you unexpectedly, claiming your account has been compromised
- Pressure you to act fast, warning of "fraudulent activity" or "account suspension."
- Ask you to follow a link to an external website and fill in your banking details, download software to mirror your screen, or provide remote access to your device
- Request that you transfer money to a "safe" account – this is a big red flag

How to stay safe

- Use the 'Stop, Check and Protect' strategy
 - Stop**
If something feels off, pause before you act.
 - Check**
Would your Bank really ask for this? (Hint: most likely not.)
 - Protect**
Never share your sensitive bank details or transfer money to anyone if you have even the slightest doubt
- Only log in to your Bank's Internet Banking through their official website. **Never follow links or instructions provided to you claiming to take you to your Bank's website.**
- Always use official numbers (e.g. on the back of your card) or official messaging channels (e.g. via the Bank's App) to communicate with your Bank

Remember, your Bank will **never** ask you to transfer money or reveal sensitive information.

Think you've been scammed?

If you suspect you've been a victim of a scam, act immediately. If you've shared personal or banking details with a suspected scammer, or sent money to an unknown account, contact your Bank as soon as possible.





GO WEST, YOUNG MAN!

Travelogue by Richard Cortis

Recently, my wife and I decided that another visit to the Flinders Ranges area of South Australia was a good excuse to head off in our motorhome.

On the way, we stopped in **Morgan**, a little old port town on the Murray River which is now just a holiday spot for river users. The historic old port area is designed for tourists but the main town, up on the hill, appears to be not faring particularly well. If you are travelling, it is a nice place for lunch and to watch the car ferry carry cars and trucks back and forth across the Murray River.

There is an original timber paddle steamer, **PS Canally**, still in service carrying passengers on river trips. It is a traditional wood burning, steam driven, paddle steamer.

Morgan is probably worth a stop for a look at the museum, coffee, lunch and a walk in the park.

It took us five days to get to **Hawker**, in the Flinders Ranges, so we stayed for a while to make the trip worthwhile. While there, we visited **Wilpena Pound**, a must visit if you are anywhere near. The area around Wilpena Pound in the Flinders Ranges has a long history that pre-dates white settlement. Many trees are four or five hundred years old. The geological history is much older and fascinating.

The **Gorges of the Flinders Ranges** hold a fascinating history as they are associated with a line of geological faults that extends from the gulf south of Port Augusta, northwards and into the Northern Territory.

The views are breathtaking but the really good bits are only accessible by high clearance four wheel drive vehicles.

Best you take a guided tour to get the full story.



The original Ghan railway ran north from Port Augusta, through the Pichi Richi Pass to Quorn where there was a major workshop and then through various stations to Hawker and then further north to Maree and into the Northern Territory and Alice Springs.

The railway was a 3' 6" gauge system initially using steam locomotives. The railway carried passengers, but it also carried everything, including sheep and cattle, needed to open up the Red Centre to agriculture.

The locomotives needed coal but they also needed lots of water to make the steam. Accordingly, along the line, there were many rectangular steel water towers to store the water to replenish the supply in the loco's tender.

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These water tanks frequently carried advertisements for day to day items such as soap and tea. Some water towers have been retained, complete with their advertising, but most of the advertised products have long since disappeared.

The new standard gauge Ghan railway takes quite a different route so many of the original service towns have now lost commercial importance, some becoming one pub ghost towns.

The pipework and valve of the water filler could be rotated to locate it over the tender's filler, and the valve was operated by an engineman standing on top of the tender. Coal was loaded separately, all whilst the passengers waited.



The original **Hawker Railway Station**, along with the railway line connecting Quorn and Hawker opened in 1880, but sadly less than 4 years later the station was destroyed by fire.

A new Station was built in 1885 and is now a Heritage site (it is now the Old Ghan Restaurant and Gallery)

The **Hawker General Store** is an original stone building, dating back to the early days of the town and the Ghan railway. It provides many services under one roof including post office, bottle shop, grocery store, and cafe.

Silverton and the Mad Max films

If you are anywhere near Broken Hill, take a trip out to **Silverton** where there is plenty of history and a museum of vehicles used in the Mad Max movie. This neat little VW was parked outside the front door of the pub. Inside the pub, the bar is also interesting but there is much more to see in this historic precinct.



Menindee

The **Menindee lakes scheme**, about a hundred kilometres from Broken Hill, was devised to draw off flood waters from the Darling River and then to feed the water back into the river to support downstream agricultural irrigation.

The lakes also provide portion of the water supply to Broken Hill city.

The sunset photo was taken on Lake Menindee, which is the largest of the lakes in the system.



CLASSIC CARS

by Peter Robilliard

Recently I sold my **1968 VW Beetle**, a car I had owned since 1985. It had full NSW registration and was insured with NRMA as a 'Classic' vehicle.

Classic vehicles in NSW are over 30 years old, and are eligible for a couple of decent discounts for registration and insurance.

My Beetle had been insured with the NRMA since I bought it in 1985 for \$2,400. However, with inflation, the agreed value of \$2,000 for comprehensive insurance was becoming almost unjustifiable by about 2010.

Third party property insurance? Yeah? Nah! My mechanic, after I asked him what the car might be worth, suggested \$8,000 would be the right price, and in fact rang me the next day saying he could put me in touch with a buyer offering \$6,500.

On ringing the NRMA to try and increase the car's insured amount, they put me through to their Classic Vehicle Insurance Division. Not only could they insure my car for \$8,000, it would be cheaper than the regular insurance policy value of \$2,000!

The new owner of my Beetle was going to surrender my personalised VW number plates, for which I paid (I think) a one off payment of \$50 back in 1986.

He told me that if he wanted to keep the number plates he would have to pay an annual fee of \$300! He wasn't going to throw money at a government department for that privilege! He was



The "classic"

also going to register the car as a **classic/historic vehicle** as it was well over 30 years of age and be cheaper to do it. Confusingly, the number plates issued by NSW are labelled "Historic Plates", not "Classic".

There are a number of conditions for getting classic vehicle registration and they are all detailed on the NSW Government website. The main condition is that you have limited opportunities to drive the vehicle. Given that old cars are not generally driven daily, this should not be too onerous for most people.



Not a "classic" yet



STARTING A REAL CONVERSATION ABOUT MEN'S HEALTH

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

People have to get talking about men's health and men's mental health. Here's the reality for too many blokes:

- 60% of men wait more than a week to see a doctor
- One-third wait over a month
- 7 men every day die by suicide
- Men are 40% more likely to die from cardiovascular disease
- 3,500 men lose their lives to prostate cancer each year, even though early detection saves lives
- In industries like construction and mining, the risks jump even higher

Nearly one in four men say they wouldn't reach out for help at all

We service our cars every 10,000 kilometres... but when it comes to booking a GP appointment? Too many blokes put it off until it's too late.

**Let's keep talking.
Let's keep checking in.
Let's keep blokes alive.**



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!!.

