



WAVERLEY COMMUNITY
MEN'S SHED INC.

SCUTTLEBUTT

WCMS MEMBERS' NEWSLETTER

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

Volume 6 Issue 9

SEPTEMBER 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!



NEW HOME NEWS

Text of report presented by Peter Charlton
at the WCMS birthday party on 22 July 2026

"There is a reasonably good chance that we have found somewhere to go for a 5 year term!! The potential landlord is very generous, but they have future plans for the site.

One problem for us is that the current occupants are not planning to move out soon enough. After they vacate, we will have to make significant modifications to the inside of the premises because it is currently set up with lots of little offices. We need open space and lots of electrical re-wiring.

"If they move out when they plan to, and if our modifications don't take too long, then we expect we could start moving in during August '27.

"We are in the process of preparing grant applications to fund both the work on the building and the move.

"The Uniting Development people tell us that we need to be out of the WMH site in Q1 of 2027, this may leave us with a gap during which we will need to find short term storage for our kit.

"Yes, it is bigger than the area we have now, but is not enormous. Yes it is a lovely building with air conditioning and a lunch room, but it has no parking, and it will be difficult for the community that brings us furniture to repair to access us.

"**Where is it?** It is not in Waverley and the reason we are keeping the story quiet, is that we offered the potential landlord the opportunity to do their own PR release so they can get the full benefit of being so generous and community minded.

"Yes, it is good news and we are very pleased."

NEXT "SOCIAL FRIDAY"

Members and friends are invited to meet again for

SOCIAL FRIDAY,
at 12 noon on 28 August
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!!



SAFETY CHANGES

At its last meeting, your Board made some significant decisions to change our systems and procedures to **improve Safety** at the Waverley Shed.

In summary:

- All members are going to have each of their Machine Certifications **re-tested** in order to maintain their Certifications. (members get older each year and some forget some things.)
- All members are reminded that machines **cannot** be used by anybody that is not certified to use that machine.
- Every member is authorised to insist that a non certified member stop using a machine.
- All machines have (attached to a near wall or to the machine) a list of the members who are certified to use that machine, and as above, non certified members **cannot** use any machine.
- The Board has confirmed that for any work to be done at the Shed there need to be two **members in attendance** - at least one being a supervisor.
- The roles of the Administrative Supervisors are being revised, see below for more details:

Administrative Supervisors **are NOT EXPECTED** to:

- Be certified to use all machines or any particular machine.
- To adjust any machine.
- To teach members how to use machines.

Administrative Supervisors **are EXPECTED** to:

- Order that a particular machine or activity is **immediately stopped** if the Admin Super considers the activity is potentially unsafe. This includes use by un-certified or unqualified Members. There is a list of Certified members adjacent to each machine.
- To notice that a machine may not be operating correctly. This may be because it is more noisy than usual or it may not be operating normally or is not being operated correctly. In these circumstances the Admin Super must **shut the machine down** immediately and prepare a description of the assumed problem for an appropriate Technical Supervisor to attend at a later date.
- Assist a member when that member requires the use of a particular machine he/she is not certified to use, but **ONLY**
 - a) If the Admin Super is both certified to use that machine and is confident that he/she can perform the member's task safely and
 - b) If the Admin Super has the time to assist.

If the Admin Super is not qualified, or confident, or does not have time, the member will have to wait till a member who is certified to use that machine is available.

Similarly there are new provisions in the Tech Supers' role description.

Uniting

Uniting War Memorial Hospital
invites you to a free seminar on

PALLIATIVE CARE

VOLUNTARY ASSISTED DYING

Monday 7th September, 12:30pm to 2:30pm

War Memorial Hospital Day Centre, 125 Birrell St Waverley

Entry from 12.00pm, light lunch will be provided.

Bookings essential: Catriona 93690215

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

Please bring a small cash donation to help with the cost of the seminar





SHED GOINGS-ON (CURRENT PROJECTS ETC.)



Ian Dawes has completed his **"bee project"** (left) ...



and has now started on a **digger** with caterpillar tracks made of individual moving parts (right)



After making prototypes of the **Bondi Chanukiah** in memory of 14.12.2025, **Tom Wolf** has now almost completed the final version to be presented to COA, a Sydney Jewish community organisation (left)



Possum box production is continuing (right).



Nick Tyrrell is making a **"cat crayon caddy"** (left)



Steve Weymouth is making a **model weatherboard country house** as a movie prop (right)



From time to time the members of the Shed are requested by staff from Waverley Council to make things, this time we were asked to make **money collection boxes** to be used at Council activities. The project is well on the way. (leftt)



Steve Fox is preparing an **old bench seat** for painting (left)

Kenny Lazarus and **Sid Lewinsky** are making more and more **hot pot holders** (right)



cont. p.4

cont. from p.3

Rodney Goldberg spends most (if not all) his time at the Shed carrying out the **thankless task of maintaining the Shed's tools**. (right) **Thank you Rodney**



Graham Ely is restoring an old **occasional table** for a community member (left)



Nick Tyrrell is making colourful little **wooden toy trucks** (right)



Tom Wolf and William Honeyball are building "**N-scale**" **model railway rolling stock** from laser engraver cutouts created by **Steve Weymouth** (right)



Some jobs need 4 or more hands ... **Rodney Goldberg and Peter Black** are cutting a 1.83m length of 100x100 radiata pine on the large bandsaw. (left)



Members of the Shed are making **dog-training-bars** for a community member (left)



CONGRATULATIONS

It is with great pleasure that the Board of Management and Members of the Waverley Community Men's Shed express their heartfelt

CONGRATULATIONS

to our Honourary Patron, the **Hon. Dr. Marjorie O'Neill MP** on the occasion of her recent marriage.

Marjorie has been a great supporter of our Shed over the years, both as an advocate for us to all levels of government, and being one of our most valued supporters every time we display our products.



(Photo: Wentworth Courier)



SIX AUSSIE ICONS

This photo, taken at a recent excursion to Lady Macquarie's Chair, was sent to us by **Michael Barker**. The iconic and perfect view of the **Opera House** and the **Harbour Bridge** is spoiled by good Shedder mates **Mo Dhanoya**, **Tony Mandarano**, **Michael Barker** and **Dave Colwell** photobombing the scene.



SCAM AWARENESS SEMINAR

10 members and 2 spouses attended a presentation by **Peter Swan**, manager of the Clovelly Community Bank of the Bendigo Adelaide Bank on 4th August 2026.

Peter's presentation was highlighted by the **personal experience accounts** of actual scamming activity experienced by Peter as the manager of the Bank.



The one clear message that emerged from the presentation was "**Never click onto or follow a link sent to you requesting personal information or money**"!

We thank Peter for conducting this presentation especially for the benefit of the members of the Waverley Shed.

Bring your damaged, faulty, or broken items in for a FREE repair!



JOIN US AT THE NEXT REPAIR CAFE

Sunday, 27th September
at Waverley College
131 Birrell Street, Waverley

9:30am to 1:00pm



WOODWORKING COURSE GRADUATION

Debbie Lawrence and **Fiona Coogan** finished the 2nd Introductory Woodworking Course for women by putting the final touches to their **coffee tables**. This course, run by **Kenny Lazarus** and **Sid Lewinsky**, again proved very successful. We hope to run another course in the near future/



WILLIAM'S TOY GARAGE

William Honeyball is busy making yet another **toy garage** for sale by the Shed. This is now the third toy garage he has made, utilising the plans for lots of excellent toys to be found on **wooden-toy-plans.com**.

Building Guide Toy Car Garage



The build is progressing with the usual precision to detail we know to be typically William's. The photos show the build as it appears today, inside and out.



FIVE PETERS

This is why you never ask "Peter" to toss you a hammer at the Waverley Shed.

You are likely to have 5 hammers thrown at you at the same time!

The Peters (**Chapman, Black, Charlton, Ulmer and Robilliard**) were enjoying the Shed birthday party when they had their photo taken together

(Photo: Steve Fox)





WCMS 13th BIRTHDAY PARTY

The birthday celebration was held on **22 July** and was a resounding success. Thanks to our organiser **Mike Barker** and our master-chef **Dave Colwell**, We had over 45 members and visitors, including some of our new women members, their attendance and commitment to the social inclusion the Shed

offers was appreciated.

Visitors included representatives from Dr. Marjorie O'Neill's office, the Clovelly Community Bank and the War Memorial Hospital.

Here are some photos snapped by **Mike Barker** and **Marissa Ely**.



cont. p.8

cont. from p.7



The party is an opportunity to thank our sponsors, mainly the Uniting Church for the site, electricity and other services and the Clovelly Community Bank (a Bendigo Bank) for it's very significant donation to assist us move to a new site sometime next year.

cont. p.9

cont. from p.8



Other sponsors include **Officeworks** providers of our stationery and many of our consumables like tea and coffee thank you Officeworks. Also thanks to **Bunnings at Eastlakes** for the discount they provide when we purchase hardware and timber. The **Commonwealth Bank in Bondi Junction** for a cash donation and of course thanks to our patron **Dr Marjorie O'Neill** the state Member for Coogee whose support is always forthcoming.

The success of the party was largely due to the contributions made by the volunteers on the day and the wide variety, quality, quantity and exceptional standard of dishes provided by the members.

Thanks to one and all!!

One little hitch! It is not too late for members who inadvertently forgot to make their \$30 contributions to rectify the situation so as to balance the budget!!



HINTS & TRICKS

CUTTING EDGING TO THE CORRECT LENGTH

The pictures tell it all:



**WELCOME
TO THE
SHED**
WHERE WASTING TIME
IS CONSIDERED
TIME *well wasted*



BRINGING WOMEN ON BOARD

Report by Phyll Sakinofsky



The 2nd Introductory Woodworking Course for Women is underway, after the completion of the first one in early July.

Two of the graduates from the 1st Course have already become active Wednesday members, so the course was obviously a winner.

The training team was led by Kenny Lazarus, supported by Sid Lewinsky and William Honeyball. What did they think about the introduction of women to the Men's Shed and the success of the Courses?

From the outset, Kenny felt it would be nice to have women around.

"The Shed isn't utilised on Thursdays and Fridays, so we were hoping that if

we could build our membership, we could train up some more administrators to open and supervise on those days," said Kenny.

This plan is coming to fruition and hopefully some of the next batch of trainees will also put their hands up to provide admin support.

He volunteered to run the courses which are designed for beginners, and so attracted women with no experience.

"I love training people, showing them what they can do. You've got to learn and understand the basics. While a few were familiar with the tools, most of the women who came on the first course had little knowledge, but by the end we had covered a lot of ground," said Kenny.

"I believe anyone who can work with their hands can make anything. If you can cook a dish, you can make a table, like they did in the first group," he said.

The question he couldn't, or wouldn't, answer was how inexperienced men would manage, if they weren't able to cook!

According to Kenny, some of the men Sheddors join because they needed help with a specific project.

"They would get shown how to use our equipment and resolve their problems, but they would not get all the fundamentals and safety training the women learnt on the Course" said Kenny.

Consideration is being given to run other courses for more experienced woodworkers.

"If we ran a specific wood turning course then we might attract men and women who already know how to use a lathe."

Sid is delighted to have women in the Shed.

"I believe there is definitely a place for women to get involved with woodworking. In general women are more creative than men. In the second group there are two artists. In the first week one of them had already recommended a change to our design!" said Sid.

"Once they know the basics, I'm sure they'll add their own style and broaden our horizons. It's a wonderful hobby and the scope is so wide. I'm still learning and getting help and the women will get that too.

"I can see how Shein has been assisted by the Sheddors with her letterbox. With time, everyone can be trained to be proficient with the equipment."

Women have a respect for each other, more so than men, according to William.

"I was pleasantly surprised by their reaction to Kenny and Sid's instructions. It was great – they listened, and with a bit of encouragement, they asked questions.

"Women are wonderful people because they call a spade a spade when it's required and are rarely abusive," William continued.

"Some of the men warned that they'd have to watch what they said in front of the women, but I told them that women can say things that would make them blush!"

cont. p.11

cont. from p.10

Sid agreed about the women's listening skills. "Men tell you, while women ask you, even if they think they already know the answer," he said, continuing that the training course has been a very successful venture.

"We had no expectations for the course: we were flying blind. We knew what we wanted to achieve but we weren't clear of the process. But we got there in the end and had very positive feedback."

Kenny is hopeful that by having women members, the Shed would open up to more handiwork opportunities and the formation of other interest groups. With all the new members come plenty of fresh ideas, energy and creativity, so the sky is the limit!



PROJECT IDEA: JENGA

From Melbourne Men's Shed website

Jenga is a game of physical skill created by British board game designer and author Leslie Scott and marketed by Hasbro.

The name comes from the Swahili word "kujenga" which means 'to build or construct'.

Players take turns removing one block at a time from a tower constructed of 54 blocks.

Each block removed is then placed on top of the tower, creating a progressively more unstable structure.

The game ends when the tower falls over.

The Jenga blocks are cut from scraps of left-over timbers and painted in 4 colours



Anything I say before coffee
cannot be used against me!





BIRD OF THE MONTH (#16)

Article and photo by Ian Dawes

Rainbow Bee-eater - *Merops ornatus*

"Striking, distinctive and very photogenic", words that describe the only Australian bee-eater that can be found almost anywhere in Australia at the right time of the year, often on powerlines or dead tree perches from which they swoop with great agility to catch



bees and other insects. They then squash bees against a branch to avoid being stung.

They are often seen in family groups. It is easy to tell the sexes apart since the male has longer tail streamers than the female, while juveniles lack the tail streamers and the black marking (gorget) at the throat

The single male was at Yarrie Lake, west of Narrabri. The pair were at Broome – he had just been for a dip in the stream below so was looking rather less immaculate than his partner.



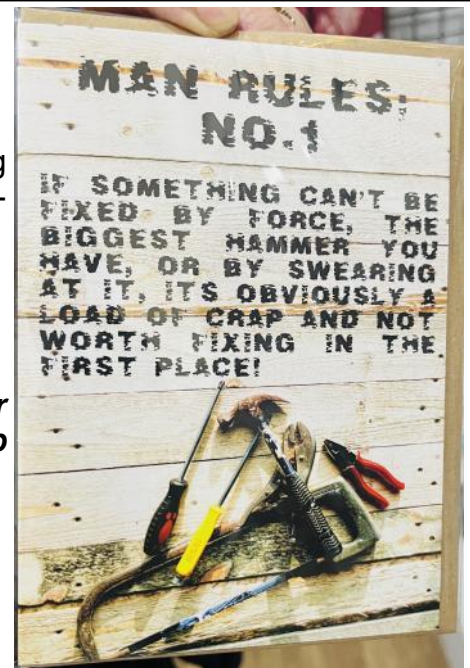
GREETINGS FROM RODGER

Founding member **Rodger Jamieson** is visiting the UK on an extended holiday, and sent us this card to remember him by.

In case you can't read it, it reads:

MAN RULES: NO.1

If something can't be fixed by force, the biggest hammer you have, or by swearing at it, it's obviously a load of crap and not worth fixing in the first place!



Yesterday, my husband pissed me off, so I poured some water on the floor in front of the washing machine. He spent 2 hours trying to fix it and to clean the laundry.



Then, today, he thought he saw a cockroach in the kitchen. He sprayed everything down and cleaned the kitchen until it was spotless.

Tomorrow, I think I'll put the cockroach into the bathroom.



CAPE YORK CAPER

Article and photos by Peter Chapman

After driving from Sydney to the lovely town of **Atherton** in Queensland, we headed out at the usual time of 10am, firstly to gather supplies to take on our journey north. Just like the intrepid early pioneers of the region we sought supplies from Supercheap Auto, Bunnings, Woolies, Big W, BWS and the local bakery.

The landscape changed dramatically as we headed north out of the **Tablelands** to dryer eucalypts and grasses, very hilly almost mountainous. Some high climbs and great look-outs. The drive took us through nearby **Mareeba** (big town), **Mt Carbine Tungsten Mine**, our lunch stop at **Rifle Creek**, **Mt Molloy**, **Palmer River** of 1870s gold rush fame, then on to **Lakeland**, gateway to Cape York and the turnoff to Cooktown.



9km out of Lakeland we pulled into **Turalgan** for the night, this is not a caravan park but a workers' accommodation camp housing 140 banana plantation workers from the Pacific Islands, in dongas and caravans, both men and women.

On a discovery tour like ours you never know what you are going to come across, and this was an extreme example. We were greeted by Swanny the super friendly manager, who was happy for us to stay for free.

Next morning, we pulled out of the workers camp after the usual morning routine, turned right onto the start of the **Peninsula Development Road**.

Stopped 85km up the road at the Laura Pub to check out the coffee situation, but not much further north the stretches of dirt started, the first one for just 7km. So we stopped soon after at the **Musgrave Road House** to let a bit of air out of the tyres and a hamburger.

The road from here all the way to **Weipa** (350km away), consists of alternating sections of good bitumen and a good wide dirt about 20km each with lots of dips and creek crossings. Not a lot of water around so no crossing was deep and all were hard surface weir type, that we were pleased to find

The van handled the corrugations very well. The route takes you along the Great Dividing Range so the land is high, sometimes flat and sometimes hilly. Cows too roaming free and anthills. Stopped on the side of the dirt road in the middle of nowhere at 2:00pm to watch (thanks to Elon Musk) the Socceroos win their first game in the WC.



Discovered a picturesque free camp just north of **Coen** by the creek. More of the same this morning heading north out of Coen...bitumen, dirt, bitumen, dirt repeater.

Barista coffee at the **Archer River Road House**, not really barista quality but ok, a beaut road house though with French girls working seasonally. Continued on the Peninsula Development Road from the intersection with the Old Telegraph Track, the 140km to **Weipa**, Rio Tinto is a big company, and it's a big operation in Weipa, one of the world's largest bauxite mines, which has created a pretty big town, miles and miles from anywhere.

Checked into the only Caravan Park in Weipa, a nice big grassy one. Still not full but getting busier after a shocking few months due to the oil crisis

cont. p.14

cont. from p.13

Today was the busiest by far for some time, maybe due to the Trump and Iran deal struck today to open the Strait. Sussed out the place, booked a few tours, shopped at Woolies, then went for a late arvo fish off **Mission Bridge**. I hooked a monster bream (3kg?) but couldn't land it on my light tackle. Had to settle instead for a beautiful big home cooked T-bone



Next day, we joined the **Weipa Town and Mine Tour** in the little bus which was really good. Learned lots about the place including: 4200 residents, everyone has a job, mostly with Rio, 850 school kids, town totally con-

trolled by Rio, 75 years mine life left, 35 million tonnes bauxite per year etc. Quite a unique place.

Wet season slows everything right down. Brett runs a good tour and has been doing it for 18 years. He is also a Rio mine equipment operator so knows what he is talking about. Spent all the middle of the day back at the nice grassy camp, stocking up for the road ahead and some travel planning. We are starting from a low base knowing what's up here.

Took the 4.30pm sunset eco cruise across the bay and up the **Embley River** checking out all the birds, the beautiful mangroves and even a little



croc that was checking us out. Beers, bubbly and bites made it even better.

The following morning, we made our final visit to Weipa Woolies first thing just for a couple of essentials. I checked the tyre pressure with my new \$107 tyre deflater and gauge that I purchased yesterday but found it to be a very fiddly device. I even stuffed up a bit because the tyre kept leaking when I took it off.

Fortunately Weipa has a Tyrepower and the very helpful people there rescued me. In 15 minutes I quadrupled my knowledge of tyres. The problem was that the device unscrewed the tyre valve pin which Tyrepower's Joy screwed tight again with her little valve



screwdriver.

Joy! We were on the road again! The corrugated dirt road that is, out of Weipa which was pretty bad down to the **Batavia Rd** turnoff, 70km. Then it was much better the 130km or so to **Bramwell Junction**. There are two camps there, we called into the Caravan Park first and then went on another 20km to the Roadhouse - nice and big and grassy.

Watched Origin 2 at the bar with one other Blue and 25 Rowdy Maroons, having to suffer an embarrassing defeat



cont. p.15

cont. from p.14

Big day today. We made it to the top! Left the nice **Bramwell Roadhouse Camp** early for us at 8.30. Didn't top up the diesel at \$3.20/l, the highest we've seen. This is the start of the **Southern Bypass Road** that goes for 110km which we found to be pretty bad. It had rained quite a bit so the road was wet and slippery and the corrugations were bad, especially around the many bends. Lyn did a great job on the morning drive shift.



First stop was **Fruit Bat Falls**, 3km off the road where we walked past the crocodile sign and enjoyed a lovely swim (like everybody else). 65km then on the **Northern Bypass Road** that was much better, even had some bitumen, to the **Jardine River Ferry**.

Expensive at \$160 return for a 40metre, 30 second crossing; but what can you do? Beautiful spot too. Mostly bitumen then for the 50km to **Bamaga**, the northern most town where we filled up and drove on the bad dirt 30km to our destination of **Pusand Caravan Park** on the beach.



On the 19th June, 2026, we stood on the northern most point of the Australian continent. For a few minutes, everybody on the mainland was below us.

Quite a strange thing to do you may say, drive thousands of kilometres, endure hours of corrugated red dust just to stand on that landmark for 5 minutes then turn around and come home.

But it is more than that of course; it is to experience a very different environment to what we are used to - sparsely populated

tropical Australia, raging ocean currents that swirl around rocks and islands, crocodiles, sharks and stingers, beautiful protected beaches that you can't even swim in. To get there we drove the 30km or so to the Tip, on the **Pajinka (dirt) Road**. It's a beautiful drive if you don't mind a few dips, puddles and corrugations, through some lovely dark rainforest sections. Someone said walk from the carpark to the tip on the sand if you can, but it's not sand it's slippery mud. The walk over the Rocky headland was better.



Checked out **Somerset Beach** and **Fly Point**. We took a 40 minute helicopter flight in the arvo that was truly well worth it. **Thursday and Horn Island** have always fascinated me and we could see them so clearly from the air; it's just amazing where some people live (or have been living for 50,000 years) and where Captain Cook first claimed Australia (on Possession Island). Pizza in the 'Corrugations Bar' at the camp for dinner to celebrate the 4,500km successful journey from Sydney.

For the full story, read Peter's blog of the trip at <https://chappottravel.blogspot.com/>



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!!.

