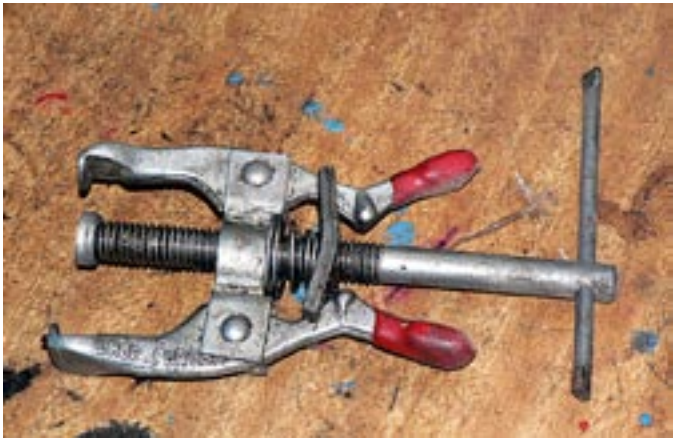
This little mechanism was used for splitting nuts. This would have been used on a nut that was on about a half inch bolt or threaded rod. If the bolt was rusted on or you couldn't undo it without damaging the bolt, then this was used to split the nut. You simply fitted it over the nut, and by screwing the little thing on the right you pushed a little pusher forward and it split the nut.

A bullock dray screw-jack. It has a thread in the middle of it, a big base to sit on, a handle to hold it, and you put a rod in the holes there and move it around like a capstan. And as you screwed it around the centre part moved up. That belonged to Uncle George, who had a bullock team. Uncle George moved the school from Cabbage Tree Road to Tolimba, as they called it, up to Bobs Farm where I was teaching later on. They towed it on a couple of log slides behind a bullock team.

For dressing an emery wheel.

I made this gadget myself. It has provision for sharpening two circular saws. The spindle on the top takes a seven inch saw blade, and the one on the bottom is for a nine and a quarter inch saw blade.

I made this timing mechanism for forgetful people who forget to switch the heater off in the bathroom. It consists of a timer out of an old washing machine that's timed to run for an hour to do the washing. I simply wired that inside an ordinary power outlet switch so that when you want to have a bath – say you're going to be twenty minutes. You plug the power into the socket, put the switch on, turn the dial around to run for twenty minutes, and then, whether you forget or not, the power to the heater gets turned off.



This is a puller specially for removing the battery clips from battery terminals. Sometimes the clips are buggers to get off the terminals, and with this you can pull them off without damaging the terminal.

People who didn't have enough money to buy a treadle sewing machine used this little gadget. You strapped it on to the wheel that you turn when you're going to do the sewing, you turned the handle around, and because of the gearing the wheel then turned about five or six times faster than the handle you were turning around. So with your right hand you turned the wheel around and with your left hand you guided the material under the needle.

A stroboscope. It's for testing the speed of your gramophone, on which you were playing 78s, 45s, and $33^{1/3}$ speed records. You put that on the spindle, and you had a light over the top and as you changed the speed these lines seemed stationary if the speeds were adjusted properly. If it was going too fast the lines would seem to be going backwards, and if it was going too slow they'd seem to be going forwards. And so you adjusted your gramophone's speed so that the lines seemed stationary for each of the three speeds.

A sulky ring spanner. When rubber-tyred sulkies first came out they had a brass hubcap on them, and this was the size that fitted over the outside of the brass hubcap so you take it off and put grease on the bearings. When the rubber tyres came out they also started using roller bearings in the wheels and axles. But not all rubber-tyred sulkies have roller bearings. The spanner on the other end fitted the nut.

T-Model Ford wheel spanner. The big hole was used to take the hubcap off – the hubcap was slightly smaller than an ordinary dining-room cup and slightly bigger than an eggcup – and that was used to take the hubcap off. This was mainly on the front wheels because the back wheels turned with the axle. The smaller end fitted over the axle nut which, to take it off you had to take a split pin out of the stub axle first. Henry Ford didn't muck about. Not only did he have roller bearings in the front wheels of his car, but the roller bearings were adjusted so that the inner part of the outer roller bearing was threaded and also screwed onto the stub axle. So when you were assembling it you put on the larger or inner roller bearing, then you put on the smaller, or outer roller bearing, and that odd-shaped hole in the spanner was used to tighten that just to the stage where there was no play or give and the wheel didn't wobble at all. When you'd got it just tight enough to do the job, then you tightened it up with the other end of the spanner.

Various hammers for splitting or breaking up rocks and so on.

A blowpipe. It was used in the chemistry lab. You'd have your Bunsen burner going, and if you wanted to heat up a crystal or something to break it you put the small end of the pipe near the flame and you blew into the other end, and that directed the flame onto the piece that you wanted heat up.

This is my tool cupboard. The door on the left is the inside of the cupboard door. It contains mainly screwdrivers and small pieces like that. The dark coloured door is hinged, and it has a whole lot of tool spanners on it – in fact it has tools on both sides of it. And on the right its mainly ring spanners. And on the wall there's a whole lot of punches at the top right hand corner – leather punches, wad punches...

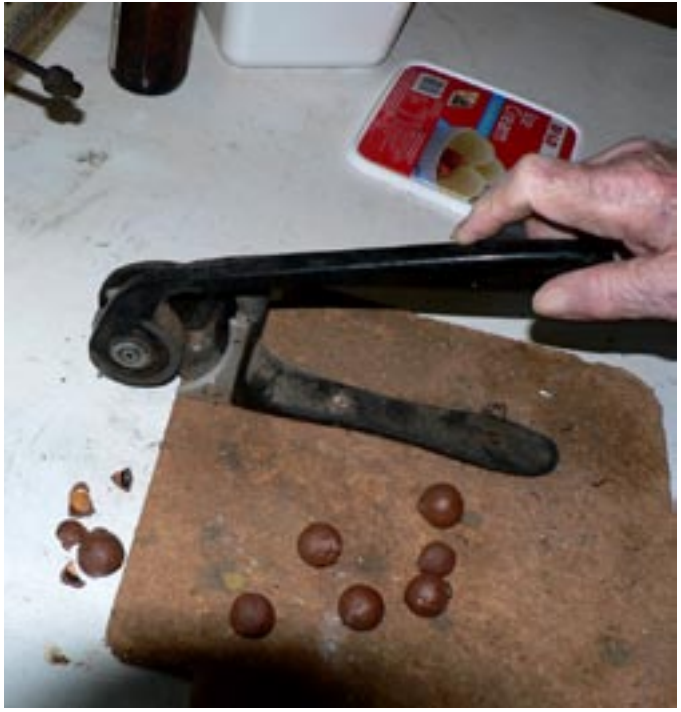
All these polystyrene boxes came mainly from Alstonville, where you were able to pick up, at the supermarket, any boxes that were put out. Many of them had lids on them. I collected those for about three or four months before we came back down here, and we used those to pack most of the stuff in that we brought back.

I made this cabinet myself. On top of it is the Sher Shopmate, which can be used as a sawbench, it can be used for vertical drilling, or it can be used as a lathe. A very useful tool. And I made the cupboard, there, where I keep the different parts of the different tools that I use with it. Down the bottom you can see the foot-operated control that I made for it from a converted foot pedal from a Singer sewing machine. It's adjustable speed – the more you push down on it the faster it goes.

That's an old reel-to-reel tape recorder. It still goes. I made the first couple of tape recorders I had myself. Around 1948 it would've been. Tape recorders first came in sometime during the second world war, and they were wire recorders – very fine wire which passed over a recording or receiving head with whatever magnetic information was necessary. But the wire wore the head very rapidly and they weren't very satisfactory. Pretty soon after that they hit on the idea of using a plastic tape coated with iron filings. That's the sort we still use today. It came out in about 8mm width. I built my first one about 1946-47, and about 1948-49 Dr Jim Staines from the Teachers' College in Newcastle went overseas and he brought me back a tape deck. I built the amplifier to go underneath it, but the actual deck came from overseas – it was a commercial one called a Wearite. I used that one for quite a long time at school – I recorded school programmes on it, played them back and so on. I've still got tapes out there that I made with Granny Banks – you can hear those any time you like.

Here's a roller that I made. You can roll out anything you like with that. I turned the roller bit on the Shopmate.

Here's a spud bar, or crowbar, made out of the tailshaft of a 1926 T-Model Ford. These splines at the top engaged with the engine and the shaft reached back to the differential. It was made into a spud bar in a blacksmith's forge. It'll never bend. A bloke wanted to buy it from me but while I'm alive I'm not selling it.



Bet you can't work out what this is for. It's for cracking macadamia nuts. This rounded piece is like a cam that get tighter and tighter as you move the handle, till eventually the nut cracks. I didn't make it, though.

I modified this drill stand so I could start it and stop it with my knee. This leaves both hands free to use on whatever the job is.

Remember years ago before the wheelie bins came in? You had a garbage bin with a lid on it and you had to get it from the backyard round to the front. I made this from lawnmower bits and pieces and a couple of boat rollers. You put your bin on that and wheeled it out that way.

This is a sort of turntable for when you want to work all the way around something. It'll turn 180 degrees one way, then it hits a sort of stop and comes back 180 degrees the other way. I made it out of an old room heater that turns and a piece of carpet.

Up there are the speakers for a public address system. When we lived at Bobs Farm I used to take them to all the concerts, school carnivals and everything else. It all still works.