

Observations Gosnells WEWS July 2016

We were advised that the first demonstration had changed at very short notice due to Chris Soulias having taken ill, giving **Laurie Sutton** one day to prepare.

Laurie's demonstration was the making of a simple macadamia nutcracker using the basic concept of brute force.

He explained that he had had several interesting moments trying to crack a macadamia nut with an ordinary hammer. With this simple block and mallet, it was (reasonably) safe for children to use.

Starting with a block of (I think) she-oak, Laurie used a forstner bit to bore a hole in either end - one hole being deeper than the other to accommodate different sizes of nut.

The depth should allow nuts to sit with about a quarter of the height above the edge to allow cracking without smashing.

After ensuring both ends were true, he then rounded off the edges of the strike block explaining that kids rarely hit the block squarely and could damage the face of the mallet on a sharp edge.

The block was sanded, and Laurie said finishing it further was entirely optional.

The mallet head and handle were made from pieces of light-coloured wood.

Laurie had predrilled the head to take the spigot of the handle and quickly finished the piece.

The handle had already been turned to fit the hole in the head and Laurie finished shaping the handle.

As he pointed out, you could do as much or as little embellishment as you wished but fancy turning was lost on kids using this implement.

Laurie had a finished item on hand, complete with macadamia nuts, which he demonstrated the use of.

He very generously handed out a kit which Noel Moyes thought he'd have a go with. This was Laurie's first weekend workshop demonstration, and he did a very good job of it.