

# THE TRADE TOOLS GROUP

## NEWSLETTER NO. 5

The focus of this newsletter is to bring you up to date with what happened at the last meeting and where we are going from here and to give you the opportunity to become more involved with this exciting new group.

### **The last Meeting**

At 7.30 p.m. on the evening of Wednesday 13 May 1992, the inaugural 'official' meeting of the Trade Tool Group took place in the Cocktail Bar of the Balmain Leagues Club. The first item was an introduction and welcome from Henry Black (President Elect of TTTG since its inception). Henry explained the origins and history of the group to all the newcomers. Henry then started the process of electing officers by calling for nominations for the position of President (Henry was nominated but, because of overseas travel commitments, was not able to accept). Eventually Terry Butcher was elected and was handed the chairmanship of the meeting by Henry. A vote of thanks to Henry was offered in recognition of his work on the group's behalf and we certainly look forward to Henry's involvement up to the time of his trip and again on his return. Terry then presided over the election of officers for TTTG for the coming year. The full list of office bearers is printed later in this newsletter.

### **General Business**

A number of items of general business were then discussed briefly as people were keen to see some of the tools brought by various members.

- \* It was noted that we have 45 paid up members including two joint memberships and one Honorary member (Ken Roberts, USA)
- \* It was decided that a letter be sent to the Balmain Leagues Club to thank them for the free use of the club's facilities. It was decided to continue to use this venue for the time being.
- \* It was decided that a questionnaire be sent out to all members as soon as possible to gather information on the sort of activities that should be planned. It was also thought useful to invite members to provide information on interests etc for circulation to the other members.

### **General Activities**

With the bar open for the thirsty the meeting moved to a number of tables where Messrs Black, Gregson et al had set up some very interesting examples of the Tools of Trade. Given that the group exists because of the beauty, rarity, usefulness and history of such items it was encouraging to see everyone gather around, keen to learn more and handle the tools.

Henry displayed some prelatral and aluminium bodied planes while Paul Gregson showed some of the smaller hand planes together with some rare and fine screwboxes. Much oohing & aahing as members new and old appreciated the workmanship.

In all 28 people attended, what was generally agreed, a very successful first 'official' meeting of the Trade Tools Group. The stragglers finally leaving at about 10.00 p.m.

### Other News

Other dates you should mark off in your diary are 24-26 July inc. These are the dates of the 'Working with Wood' exhibition at the Sydney Showground. This promises to be another interesting show with several members involved in different ways. There is the opportunity for members to be involved in the show in manning a stand and giving out information about TTTG to potential members. If anyone is interested please contact Paul Gregson on 875-4790.

### Elections

The following people were elected to the various positions on the Executive

PRESIDENT	Terry Butcher	56 Pitt Street, Redfern 2016 Tel: 699 2391
SECRETARY	Paul Gregson	23/10 Pioneer Ave, Thornleigh 2120 Tel: 875 4790
TREASURER	Ray Gurney	39 Styles Street, Leichhardt 2040 Tel: 569 1241
MEETING PROGRAMMER	Bob Lee	82/84 Princes Highway, Sylvania 2224 Tel: 2224
NEWSLETTER EDITOR	Michael Dale	79 Valley Road, Wentworth Falls 2782 Tel: 047 57 3412
ASST NEWS-LETTER EDITOR	Bob Crosbie	3 Chesterfield Road, Epping 2121 Tel: 869 8292
LIBRARIAN/HISTORIAN	Sid Bailey	RMB 5138 Croton Ave Holgate 2250 Tel: 043 652 024
CATERER	Bob Sewell	43 Parklands Ave, lane Cove 2066 Tel: 428 1719

### FOR SALE

#### Tools for sale

All items in good condition or better unless noted otherwise.

Stanley Planes:	#3, #5 Prelateral	\$125 each
	#7 Hi Knob	\$110
	#10 Rebate	\$110
	#20 Compass (fair condition)	\$110
Wood Bottoms	#26	\$ 70
	#27	\$ 80
	#28	\$ 90
Sargent	#3415	\$ 80
Stanley	#55 Combination	\$325
	#45	\$150
	#72 Champher (very good)	\$250

Stanley	#98 Side Rebate	\$ 70
	#90J Rebate	\$ 45

Stanley #45 Adjustable Throat Spokeshave \$25, Pump Screwdriver \$20,  
Diston Hand and back saws, \$15 to \$25, Preston Torpedo Level \$25

Marking out gear: Height gauge \$20, Trammels \$35, Dividers, calipers etc  
- 2 very shallow pattern makers gauges, large and small expansion bits.

All offers and trades considered. Ring Henry on 744 7875 (A.H.)

### Workshop Space to Let

Available from August 1992 until June 1993. Share 2 500 sq/ft workshop at Concord with two other woodworkers. Fully equipped with three phase industrial machinery suitable for most types of woodwork. Daytime use only, full or part time. If you're interested ring Henry on 744 7875. All propositions considered. Possibility of longer term use after June.

### Wanted

Wanted to buy or borrow to assist with the completion of a project on the history of planes in Australia:

Carter #5 & #6 for display, if not for sale

Falcon Pope #4 or #9 in Smoother ) Photos of these

Pacific MEM Tool Sydney #4 ) would be useful

Any information, catalogues on either Pope or Turner planes

Contact Henry on 744 7875

Woodworking Bench: Anyone who has, or knows of, a work bench for sale please contact Michael Dale on 963 1116 or 047 57 3412

## A GUIDE TO CLEANING TOOLS

Richard Weston

The care of tools must lie ultimately in the hands of the owner regarding appearance, use, conservation, restoration, the time and materials available and the condition of them at the beginning.

One method of cleaning tools which must be stopped is the use of the motorised wheel because it imparts an unnatural finish, rounds sharp edges, removes or blurs makers names, numbers and trade marks. They can also remove traces of the original finish and the evidence of the original methods of manufacture such as hand forging marks, sand cast, stamped or machined from a solid block.

For steel tools like chisels and spanners that have a thick coat of rust a hand held wire brush is unlikely to do any harm if not over done, care being taken not to take off the fine layer immediately above the shiny metal as when this brown or black layer is oiled it gives the same appearance of a well used, and not abused or neglected tool.

From the brushed stage or surface rusted condition, steel wool with oil, penetrating oil or both can be rubbed over the tool to give a smooth though still dark finish. For tools in this state I have found that a nice, non soiling surface is imparted by using beeswax polish and rubbing to a low sheen. In the case where a cutting tool is going to be used, the grinding and the face opposite which forms the cutting edge should be the only places where shiny metal is exposed but this may be extended to friction surfaces such as the soles of metal planes or spokeshaves and the like where roughness would score the wood or rust cause unwanted stains. By being careful it is possible to preserve about 90% of the original fire-blue on tools even when they have been rusted all over and nearly the same percentage when blued with chemicals. Even when not blued a nice brown finish all of which when oiled will help resist further rusting.

Never use this method on soft materials like iron, brass, aluminium and the similar soft alloys as they will be damaged by the hardened wire bristles and the steel wool as will any wood that may be part of the tool. These other parts have their own particular methods for cleaning and polishing to minimise damage and give the finish required.

This is not the definitive method of cleaning up steel tools but for most pieces more satisfactory than using wire wheels, grindstones, acids, sandpapers and files which if not used wisely can turn a rare and/or valuable tool into worthless scrap. So if there is any doubt as to the final result the golden rule must be....DON'T DO IT!!

N.B.. Whilst we are more than happy to print articles of potential interest to members it should be understood that neither the editor nor the committee necessarily endorse the views expressed. They are exactly what they appear to be, the thoughts of one of our members.