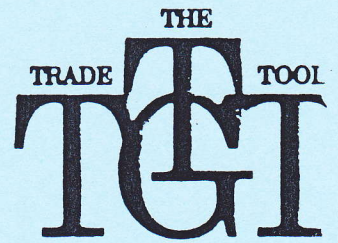




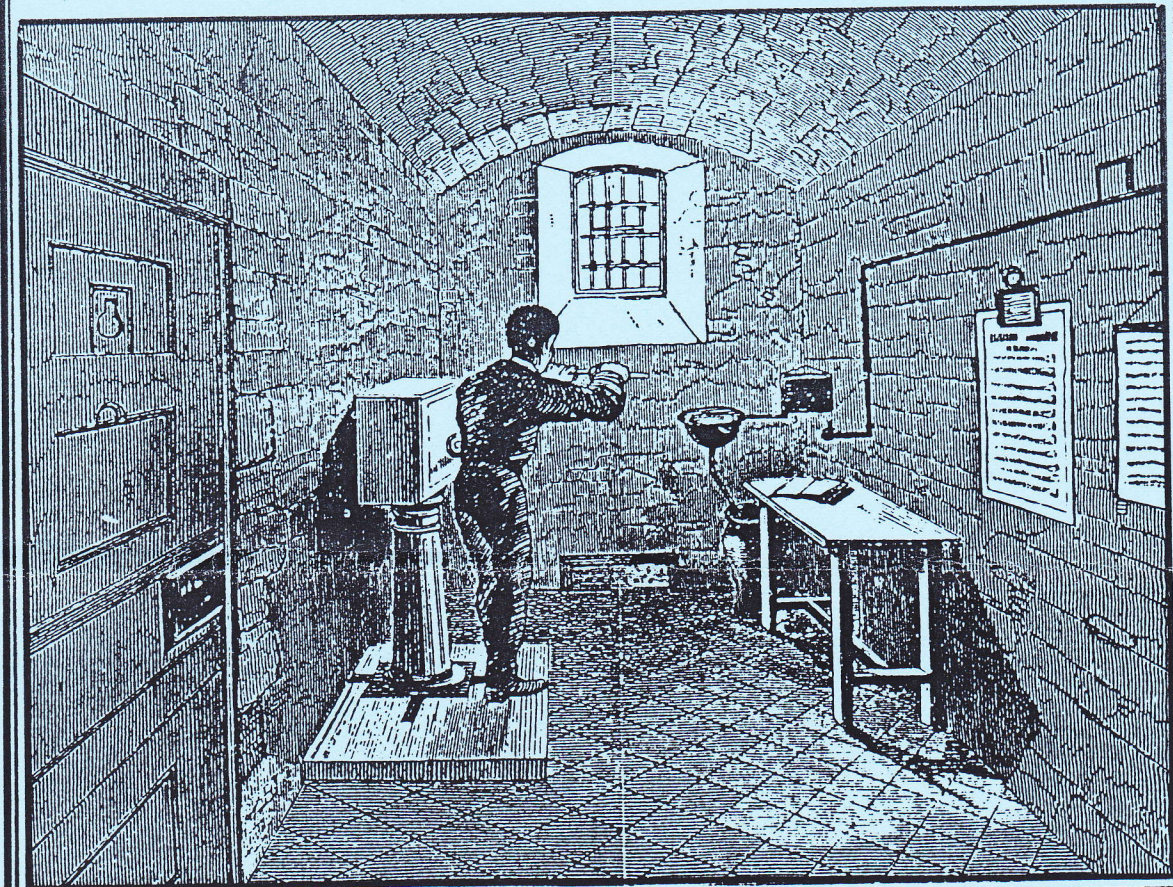
# THE TRADE TOOLS GROUP INC.



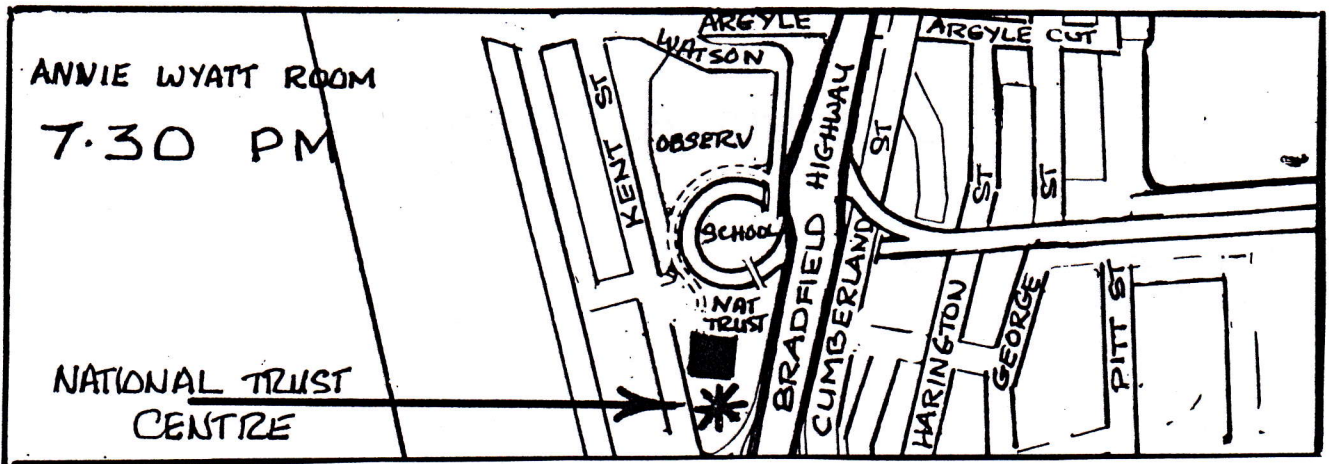
GROUP  
INCORPORATED

TTTG NEWSLETTER NO.22  
APRIL 1995

CELL, WITH PRISONER AT "CRANK-LABOUR,"  
IN THE SURREY HOUSE OF CORRECTION.



'The History of Tools is the History of Man'



### OUR NEW POSTAL ADDRESS

The Secretary  
T.T.T.G. Inc.  
P.O. Box 240  
GROSVENOR PLACE  
SYDNEY NSW 2000

### *NEXT MEETING-TUESDAY APRIL 11TH*

*AT THE ANNIE WYATT ROOM, NATIONAL TRUST CENTRE, OBSERVATORY HILL  
COMMENCING AT 7.30 PM SHARP*

#### PROGRAMME:

1. 100 YEARS OF BLACKSMITHING AND ENGINEERING IN BATHURST. JOHN GIBSON, A LECTURER AT SYDNEY UNIVERSITY, WILL TRACE THE RISE OF A BATHURST BLACKSMITHING CONCERN TO ENGINEERING COMPANY; ITS DEMISE AS A BUSINESS, ITS PAINSTAKING RESEARCH AND RELOCATION TO MOUNT PANORAMA.
2. DRAWING OF THE DOOR PRIZE.
3. TOOL SWAP TABLE. DO YOU HAVE ANY INDUSTRIAL ARCHEOLOGY BITS AND PIECES?
4. FRED MURRELL'S "WOTSIT". REMEMBER THE PRIZE FOR THE BEST WOTSIT OF 1995!
5. SID BAILEY'S LIBRARY TABLE. SID ALWAYS HAS SOME INTERESTING BOOKS AND CATALOGUES IN THE LIBRARY BOX.
6. SUPPER BY MARIO DATO.



## EDITOR'S NOTES

I have been Editor for longer than I care to remember. It all started when I offered to help out for a few issues. Now we have reached issue No. 22.

If you don't like me as Editor, remember this:

- I have threatened to resign.
- I have refused to stand for re-election.
- I have made a few blunders.

But somehow I cannot get out of the job. So it looks like I will be editor for a bit longer. This dreadful realisation has got me thinking. I have looked back over my time as editor and have decided to now do some things to improve this newsletter.

The first thing I need is for someone to volunteer to organise the advertising for this newsletter.

This aside, I am introducing a new Editorial Policy. Certain practices seem to have evolved which are contributing to the mistakes which creep into the newsletter. To eliminate these practices there will be a new deadline for contributions to this newsletter. Most readers are probably not aware that this newsletter is written and printed one month before it reaches them.

This means that I need contributions well in advance. The old deadline was the committee meeting before the General Meeting. This was no problem as far as advertisements and notices went but if a contribution arrived during the committee meeting it often meant that I had no editorial control. Often such late material resulted in hasty last minute deletions or re-arrangements. This often led to errors, pages omitted, duplications, etc.

I have become aware that some members are giving me material at the last moment, that is during the committee meeting. Some of this material I would not print in its original form if it had been submitted at an earlier date. It has resulted in material with expanded spacing or inappropriate content being included at the last moment.

To stop this the deadline for material will now be two months in advance of issue. That is give me the contribution at the General Meeting or better still, mail it to our postal address a couple of days before a general meeting.

I will still accept advertisements, special notes, etc. but in future no articles will go in this newsletter unless I have time to edit them. No exceptions except those already mentioned. No special cases, no arguments. That is final.

The old policy of the editor taking total responsibility still stands. If you have a complaint blame me, talk to me and if you want to write to the editor use the TTTG postal address.

So that's that, enjoy the next meeting.

## FAVOURITE TOOLS

Those fancy try squares, all rosewood and brass, look wonderful in a Museum showcase. That is where they belong and the collectors can have the lot of them as far as I am concerned.

I will not have one at any price. They are a menace to anyone who tries to do precise work. The current expensive copies with their certificates of accuracy are equally as lethal. Nothing made of wood and brass will remain accurate.

Engineer's all steel try squares, the hardened grade, are excellent until they are knocked. To my way of thinking only one try square is worth its price to the serious user.

This is of course the Starrett type combination square, invented over one hundred years ago and still an unsurpassed design. Only the hardened grade is worth considering. This pattern of square was also made by such companies as Chesterman, Rabone, Millers Fall. Found as separate components, a set can be bought relatively cheaply.

The unhardened versions are useful for rough work. What other square can remain accurate on a building site. For such work I have two. One is a Rabone/Chesterman, the other is a Flag brand made in Germany between the wars. The Flag is a nice light square.

As a passing shot it always amazes me how unthinking most woodworkers can be when it comes to tools. A growth industry has been built on making and marketing elaborate marking out tools for woodworking. Far better tools have been standard in the metal trades for over a century. One bonus is that on the second hand market such engineer's tools are often under valued.

Think I will look through an old McPherson's catalogue next.

### ***WOODWORKERS ASSOCIATION OF N.S.W.***

Many of our members are interested in woodworking through their interest in traditional tools or perhaps it is their interest in woodworking which has sparked an interest in traditional tools! Whichever the case, it is likely that our members will often be interested in the presentations at the meetings of The Woodworkers Association of NSW and *vice versa*. We will endeavour to publish their next meeting agenda in our newsletter and they will publish ours.

The next meeting of the Woodworkers is on April 3rd. at the Powerhouse starting at 7.00 pm sharp. Their Guest Speaker is Noel Frankham from The Craft Council of N.S.W. who will talk about recent developments in the Government's approach to The Crafts. In addition there will be a practical demonstration of how to "tune" a cabinet scraper. The Woodworkers welcome guests in the same way as we do, so if you're interested why not pop along?

## PREVIOUS MEETING 14 February 1995

TTTG's guest speaker was John Godschall Johnson. John gave an interesting presentation on his unique methods of violin making. His theories on wood working, timber technology and polishing kept the audience enthralled. No doubt many looked up references on organic chemistry as an aid in recalling John's recipes from "the ancients". The comments on the use of urine in wood seasoning generated animated discussion. Thanks to John for an entertaining evening.

After John's talk I had a chance discussion with Sid Bailey who felt compelled to clarify some comments made about the urinary habits of horses. Sid's daughter keeps horses and Sid may be prepared to share his observations on horse urine with the group at some future date. It was at Sid's suggestion that I included the article on leather dying in this issue.

Which is a long-winded way to mention the impressive travelling TTTG Library Sid brings to each general meeting. Sid will also accept any donation to the group's library. But only give the books to Sid.

FRED'S WOTS IT was as successful as usual. The competition is already starting to get fierce for the Wots It prize at the end of the year. This time the most interesting item was a weaving shuttle. This one cannot win as Fred brought it along.

Speaking of our President I am sure most members are appreciative of the items Fred brings to every meeting. He never fails to bring interesting tools, usually at least one of which will have some special quality. What makes it so good is the fact that Fred never tries to impress members with his possessions. He always has to be asked to bring them out of the bag and he is then willing to freely share his knowledge.

Some members are beginning to bring tools along in the hope of getting advice; what is it, how to use it, etc. This is a good development. At every meeting there is at least one member who can help. Don't be shy or afraid to ask.

## TTTG's NAME

At the last meeting the vote was carried to change the group's name from The Trades Tool Group to The Traditional Tools Group, Inc.

Now we have a name the group can start to move ahead. If you want to be more involved speak to a Committee member, **A TTTG JOB CAN BE FOUND FOR YOU.**

## TRADITIONAL LEATHER DYES

Reproduced from: The Magazine of Science and School of Arts

Editor: G. Francis Vol.V. 1844 Page: 319.

The following colors may be imparted to leather, according to the various uses for which it is intended:—

*Blue.*—Blue is given by steeping the subject a day in urine and indigo, then boiling it with alum; or it may be given by tempering the indigo with red wine, and washing the skins therewith.

*Another.*—Boil elder-berries, or dwarf elder, then smear and wash the skins therewith, and wring them out; then boil the berries as before in a solution of alum water, and wet the skins in the same manner, once or twice; dry them, and they will be very blue.

*Red.*—Red is given by washing the skins, and laying them 2 hours in galls; then wringing them out, and dipping them in a liquor made with privet berries, alum, and verdigris in water; and lastly in a dye made of Brazil wood boiled with ley.

*Purple.*—Purple is given by wetting the skins with a solution of roche alum in warm water, and when dry again rubbing them, with the hand, with a decoction of logwood in cold water.

*Green.*—Green is given by smearing the skin with sap-green and alum-water boiled.

*Dark-green* is given with steel-filings and sal-ammoniac, steeped in urine till soft, then smeared over the skin, which is to be dried in the shade.

*Yellow.*—Yellow is given by smearing the skin over with aloes and linseed oil, dissolved and strained; or by infusing it in weld.

*Light orange.*—Orange color is given by smearing with fustic berries, boiled in alum-water; or, for a deep orange, with turmeric.

*Sky color.*—Sky color is given with indigo steeped in boiling water, and the next morning warmed and smeared over the skin.

Extract from Nicholson. Part 5 of a continuing series.

The Smoothing Plane, (*pl. LXIX, fig. 3.*) without a tote, is the last plane which is made use of in giving the utmost degree of smoothness to the surface of a piece of finished work. It differs in shape from all the planes yet mentioned, being about seven inches in length, with the sides of the stock convex, so as to resemble the figure of a coffin. The smallness of this plane fits it admirably for smoothening small portions of a surface which the large planes would not be able to touch. Besides, as it is wrought like the jack-plane, in small strokes, its direction can easily be varied, so as to suit cross-grained stuff. But though it is not adapted to produce straightness of surface, yet the inequalities which it may have will be so imperceptible, that it will be impossible for them to deface, in the slightest degree, the surface of desks, tables, and other furniture, even of the most finished description.

The Tooth-Plane is fitted with a blade or iron, on the steel side of it covered with rakes or small grooves, close to each other, and all in the direction of its length, so as to act by scraping or scratching. The stock is usually of the shape and size of the smoothing plane, and the bed of the stock, for receiving the blade or iron, is inclined only about six degrees; and thus the iron, when fixed, works almost perpendicular to the sole of the stock. Without this instrument, the workman would often find the utmost difficulty in planing many kinds of cross and twisted-grained stuffs; for, although the double iron is an excellent invention, and the use of it the best and most general remedy against curling and cross-grained stuff of ordinary quality, yet it is often found defective in working some fine specimens of mahogany, and still more of fustic. But, with the tooth-plane, let the nature and texture of the stuff be as hard and cross-grained as possible, its surface may be made every where alike, and left no rougher than if it had been rubbed over with a piece of new fish-skin; and this roughness may be easily and effectually removed with a scraper.

The Forkstaff-Plane is similar to the smoothing plane in size and shape; but the sole is concave, and the concavity is in the direction of the length of the plane. The use of the forkstaff-plane is to form a convex cylindrical surface, when the wood to be wrought is bent with the fibres in the direction of the curve; as the convex surfaces of the rims of carriage-wheels, or the top rails of camp-bedsteads, and work of a similar nature. Consequently, forkstaff-planes must be of various sizes, to form the surfaces of various radii.

The Compass-Plane is similar to the smoothing plane in every respect, as to size and shape; but the sole forms a convex surface, in order to suit itself to planing concave surfaces; and, consequently, compass-planes must be of various sizes, to accommodate different diameters.

The Rebat or Rebating Plane is used after a piece of stuff has been previously tryed on one side and shot on the other, or tryed on both sides, to take away (by shavings) from the edge a piece, in the form of a square or rectangular prism, so as to leave a groove, consisting of two surfaces at right angles to each other. Various kinds of cornices and other ornamental work require this mode of reducing the stuff. The rebat-plane is also frequently used, as its name may show, to form a groove to receive the edge of another board, cut in like manner, so that the one may lap over the other to the breadth of the rebat, and form one even surface. From the planes hitherto described the shavings escape at the top, but in the rebating plane they escape at the side. Rebating planes are of various kinds: some have a fence to regulate the horizontal breadth; others are provided with a stop to determine the vertical extent or depth of the rebat; and some have both stop and fence, and others neither. Those rebating planes which have no fence, have the iron of the same breadth as the sole. Some have the cutting edge of the iron only on the side, and others only on the bottom of the stock: these are used for dressing and finishing off with the greatest exactness, separately, both sides of the rebat.

*Fillisters* are a sort of rebating plane, used for sinking, or cutting away, the edge of a piece of wood to form the rebat, leaving it for the others to smooth the surfaces when cut. These are represented in *plate LXIX, figures 6 and 7*. The first is the *Sash Fillister*, which throws the shavings off the bench: *a* denotes the head of one *stem*; *b* of the other; *c* the iron; *d* the wedge; *e* thumb-screw for moving the stop up and down; *b, f*, fence for regulating the distance of the rebat from the arris. The second, *fig. 7*, is the *Moring Fillister*, for throwing the shavings on the bench. No. 1 is the right-hand side of the plane; *a* the brass stop; *b* the thumb-screw of the same; *cde* tooth, the upper part, *cd*, on the outside of the neck, and the part *de* passing through the solid of the body, with a small part open above; *e* the tang of the iron tooth; *ee* the guide of the fence. No. 2 represents the bottom of the plane turned up; *a* the guide of the stop; *ff* the fence, showing the screws for regulating the guide; *gg* the mouth and the cutting edge of the iron.

The Plough-Plane (*pl. LXIX, fig. 8*.) is used for sinking a groove in a board, by taking away a solid in the form of a rectangular prism, so as to leave a ridge on either side. The operation of cutting with this instrument is called *ploughing*. In order to prevent the cumbersomeness and expense of being obliged to use a different plough for every different sized groove which may be required, the *Universal Plough* was invented. This instrument is provided with a fence, which has two stems, with keys and a stop, moved by a thumb-screw. The sole of this plane is the bottom narrow side of two ver-

tical iron-plates, which are something thinner than the narrowest iron. The iron and wedge are inserted in the same manner as in the rebating planes. The fore-end of the hind plate forms the lower part of the bed of the iron, with a projecting angle in the middle, and an external angle adapted to the bed-side of each angle: thus the iron is prevented from being moved by any sudden obstruction. The fore iron-plate is cut with a cavity, similar to the common rebat-planes. The stop and fence of this universal plough being moveable, it will readily admit, according to the extent of the groove desired, the particular sized iron which will be necessary.

Moulding Planes are used for forming curved surfaces of the greatest diversity of contour or form, which is necessarily the reverse of the moulding of the plane. The figure of the edge of the iron, and that of the sole of the plane, should exactly correspond. Single mouldings, or different mouldings in assemblage, have various names, according to their figure, combination, or situation. Mouldings are formed either by a plane reversed to the intended section; by a fence and stop, which causes them to have the same transverse section throughout; or by several planes, adapted as nearly as possible to the different degrees of curvature. In whetting the irons of moulding planes, the greatest caution should be taken that its form is not injured thereby. The whole of the sole, or, at all events, the ridges of the moulding, particularly if the base be narrow, should be formed of box-wood, as no other wood unites, in so great a degree, the valuable properties of smoothness, toughness, and durability.

SAWS.—The best saws are made of plates of tempered steel, ground bright and smooth; they are known to be well-tempered by the stiff-bending of the blade, and to be well and evenly ground by their bending equally in a bow. The back of the saw is always thinner than the edge in which the teeth are cut, in order that it may more readily follow the edge. The instrument made use of for cutting and sharpening the teeth of a saw is a triangular file; but it is necessary, in order to perform this operation well, that the blade of the saw should be fixed in a vice or whetting-block. If the teeth of the saw make the kerf or fissure barely of the width of the thickness of the saw-plate, the motion of the tool must necessarily be much impeded by friction. In order to hinder this inconvenience, when the teeth have been filed, they are turned out of the right line, alternately, first to the right and then to the left: thus, the fissure made in the wood is wider than the thickness of the plate of the saw, and thus all inconvenience from friction is avoided. The facility of cutting will moreover be greater, if the extremity of each tooth at the outside corner is left a little higher than that of the inside. The above-mentioned operation is called *setting a saw*.

The teeth of saws are usually bent with a piece of iron or steel, which has

several nicks in the edge, at right angles to its length, and of various sizes. This instrument is about five or six inches long. The operation is performed in the following manner: The blade of the saw should first be fastened in a vice, in order to retain it firmly; and then, having selected the nick which will exactly fill the tooth intended to be bent, the instrument is twisted up or down, according to circumstances; and thus the effect of bending the tooth is readily and speedily produced. The teeth of a saw are made larger or smaller, according to the coarseness or fineness of the stuff which they are intended to cut. Coarse teeth would find so much resistance from hard and fine-grained wood, that additional labour would be required for the operation. The degree of acuteness required for the teeth of saws is comprised in an angle of about sixty degrees. Hence the outer arris of each tooth should be made sharp, by moving the file in a straight direction, and thus leaving the slanting sides of the teeth flat.

The front edge or apex of the teeth of saws that are used for dividing wood in the direction of its fibres, should be made standing nearly as forward as the base of the tooth on that side which is next to the lower end of the plane. But, for cutting wood transversely, or in a contrary direction to its fibres, this form would greatly hinder the operation of pushing the saw forward; and, therefore, saws used for this purpose, usually have the apex of the tooth no more forward than the centre of its base.

The operation of sharpening saws is generally performed, in large towns, by persons who get their entire livelihood thereby, and who receive no small share of praise when they perform the operation well. The persons who generally apply to them are journeymen, who do not reflect that the ingenuity which they so much praise might be acquired in less time than is wasted by carrying, looking after, and fetching, their tools; and thus, if they had nothing to pay for the work, and suffered no inconvenience from being deprived of tools which they are constantly in want of, they can still be no gainers by employing others to do that which they might themselves learn to do equally well, without any expense, and in the same portion of time.

The following is a list of the saws in common use: *viz.*

The Pit-Saw, a large saw, with two handles, used by sawyers in a pit, for reducing trunks of trees, &c., into boards or planks.

The Whip-Saw.—This saw has likewise two handles, and differs from the *pit-saw* in not being used in a pit; but still it is employed for reducing such pieces of timber as are too large to be reached by the hand-saw.

## APOLOGY:

In the last issue, No. 21, several errors occurred. Jack Harding, our previous guest speaker, was by some mysterious means renamed Jack Hall.

Jack will, I hope, forgive the editor for this major blunder. In the future we hope to have Jack Harding back on deck for TTTG as he gave one of the best talks yet.

The series of reprints from Nicholson again suffered. Two identical pages were reprinted. In this issue pages 245 and 246 are reprinted, these should of course have been in the previous issue. Don't panic, one day the series will be complete and you can photocopy a full set of extracts from your back issues. After all the mistakes the exercise will keep you thinking.

REMEMBER: ALL MISTAKES ARE THE FAULT OF THE EDITOR  
(no matter who did it!)  
IF YOU CAN DO BETTER, THE JOB'S YOURS.

## WANTED

A full set of back issues of this newsletter. These are needed by the Editor for reference. The Committee has been making up a set for the Editor for over two years. The Editor now fears he may die before the Committee gets its act together.

### AUSTRALIA DAY 26 January 1995. Open day at The Hyde Park Barracks, Sydney.

Several members of TTTG were involved in this open day. Over eleven thousand people passed through the Hyde Park Barracks. Mario Dato was in the building promoting his fine quality shoes, Andrew Butcher was outside demonstrating the skills of the Cooper, Bob Crosbie and Ralph Hawkins were demonstrating and explaining early nineteenth century joinery methods, an impressive display of pole lathe turning was given by Howard Archibald and Darryl Lobsey. These TTTG members were all praised by the management of the Hyde Park Barracks for the interest their respective activities generated.

Near the entry gate was a small stand. This was something of a mystery as there was no indication as to what it represented. This was the TTTG presentation. No point in evading the issue, TTTG blew it. Fortunately the goodwill generated by the independent displays by TTTG members saved the day. If the event is offered in 1996 TTTG will be invited back but we will have to do better. The moral is the group is too dependent on certain committee members. The more involvement by members the less chance of such a disaster being repeated.

### AUSTRALIA DAY 26 January 1995. The Dairy Cottage, Parramatta Park.

This 1790's cottage was open to the public on Australia Day. Bob Crosbie had a display of joiner's tools. Information leaflets for TTTG were also available to visitors.

# GATHERING OF THE WOOD SKILLS

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Canteen area

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- The Traditional Tools Group
- The Marquetry Guild of NSW
- The Woodcarvers Guild of NSW
- The Woodworkers Assoc. of NSW
- Pole Lathe Assoc of NSW

A display by T.A.F.E. on short courses available in woodorking  
This is planned as a fun day for interested people to get together.  
Come along and show how to use some of your treasures or just  
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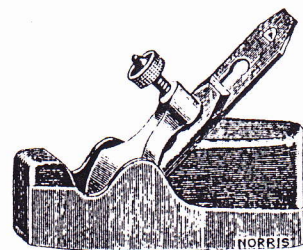
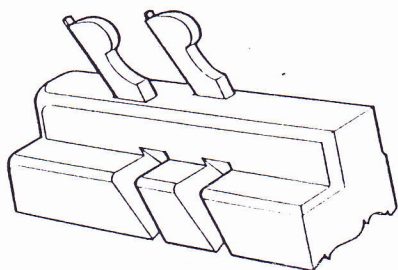
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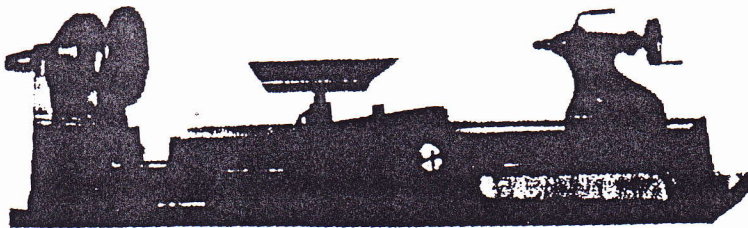
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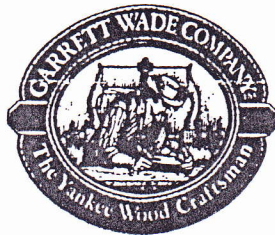
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