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TGT**



**TTTG Inc. Newsletter Number 78. August 2004.  
The Traditional Tools Group (Inc.)**

**[www.tttg.org.au](http://www.tttg.org.au)**

**TTTG Inc.**  
**THE TRADITIONAL TOOLS GROUP (Inc.)**  
**TTTG Newsletter Number 78. August 2004.**

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**2004/2005 Subscriptions are due.**

**Subscription Rates:**

Sydney \$30. Overseas \$30.

Out of Sydney, Other States and Australian Pensioners \$22.50.

Postal Address.

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**Enquires:** Mike Williams

02 9144 6356

Bob Crosbie

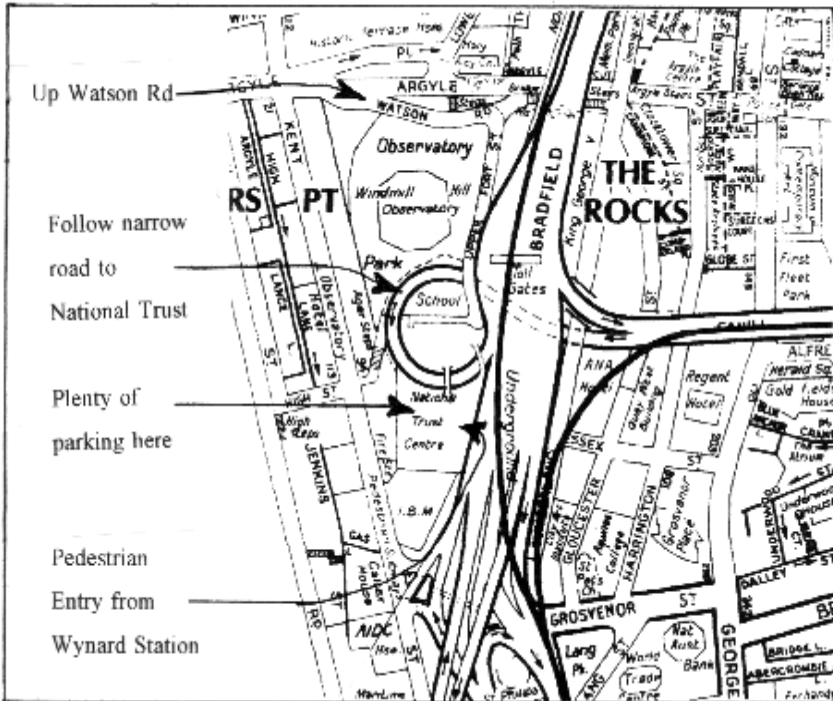
[r.crosbie@bigpond.com](mailto:r.crosbie@bigpond.com)

**[tttg.org.au](http://tttg.org.au)**

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**Next Meeting**  
**National Trust Centre,**  
**Observatory Hill.**

**Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> August 2004**  
**Annie Wyatt Room**  
**Commencing at 7:00pm**



**PROGRAMME**

- 1. THE TRADING HOUR. MEMBERS ARE INVITED TO SELL QUALITY TOOLS AMONGST THEMSELVES. MIN. PRICE \$20**
- 2. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND ELECTION OF NEW COMMITTEE.**
- 3. THIS WILL BE FOLLOWED BY FRED'S WOTSIT.**
- 3. THEN OUR FUN AUCTION.**
- 4. SUPPER BY MARIO DATO.**

**Next Meeting.**

**National Trust Centre. Tuesday August 10. Commencing at 7:00 pm.**

**Annual General Meeting.**

There will not be a Speaker for this meeting.

The Annual General Election will be conducted during the meeting.

The Committee has decided in principle to introduce a new component into the General Meetings. This is in response to consistent requests for opportunities to buy and sell quality tools at the meetings.

Vendors are requested to donate 10% of all sales to TTTG.

As a trial this “trading hour” will occur from 7 to 8 pm.

At future meetings this “trading hour” will occur from 6 to 7 pm.

**-The Trading Hour.**

Members are invited to sell quality tools.

Minimum price \$20. Vendor fee 10%.

**-Annual General Election.**

Election of 2004-2005 TTTG Committee.

**-The Auction.**

Vendors please refer to Auction Rules. Vendor fee 20%.

**Previous Meeting.**

**Tuesday June 8.**

**The latest planes made by David Chee and other TTTG members.**

David found out about his presentation a few days before the meeting. In fact when he opened News 77! Even so David quickly prepared a Power Point presentation and sorted out a selection of his planes illustrating the stages of manufacture.

The quality of David’s work is outstanding and he is willing to share his knowledge in an unaffected manner.

The meeting was a great success due to the quality of the planes displayed and to the speaker’s ability to communicate in a direct manner. A record number attended the meeting and every one seemed engaged.

The TTTG Committee appreciates David’s contribution and apologises for the informality the invitation.

The Auction followed and again was very productive. The Auctioneer sold all but two items and the modest commission swelled the TTTG Coffers. In future the Auctioneer will not accept such items as, picture frames, plastic toys and general household rubbish. Electrical goods are also “questionable”.

### **Nominations and Election of TTTG Committee.**

The Election of the 2004-2005 TTTG Committee will be conducted at the General Meeting on August 10.

TTTG members willing to accept nomination for a Committee position should contact the Secretary prior to or at the commencement of the Meeting.

To nominate a member for a Committee position contact the Secretary prior to or at the commencement of the August 10 Meeting.

All members of the current Committee have indicated they are willing to accept nomination for the 2004-2005 TTTG Committee.

### **The Cover.**

This illustration is taken from Directory of Australian Tool Manufactures.

This publication is available from Hand Tool Preservation Association of Australia Inc. and it is a “must have” for anyone interested in local tools.

The kangaroo with the trowel and pouch of tools seems to sum up the spirit of Australian tool manufactures in the immediate post World War II decades.

The production figures, both in quantity and in product range, of these small Australian manufacturers were prodigious.

New sightings of Australian tools continue to be made.

See for example **Star Saw Handle** in this issue of News.

### **Dank's 1942 Catalogue.**

The editor recently purchased a Dank's 1942 Catalogue.

A reprint of a 1946 Dank's Catalogue has been reprinted.

This wartime 1942 Catalogue should be of interest to tool collectors and TTTG is currently organising a reprint.

See Horacio or John at the meeting to place your orders.

### **1920s Anthony Hordern's Catalogue.**

The TTTG Secretary has access to a very clean copy of this catalogue.

The sections devoted to tools and machinery have excellent illustrations.

The Publications Committee is in the preliminary stages of organising a publication based on extracts from this catalogue.

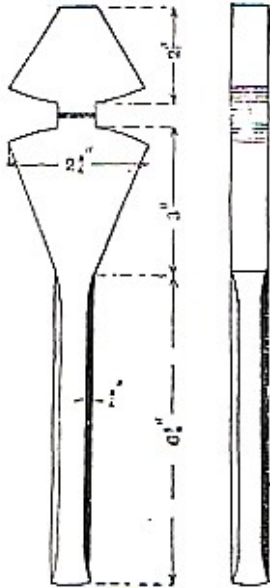
### **Carter Tools Leaflets.**

A limited number of Carter Tools Leaflets are available. Cost is \$5 per leaflet, including postage.

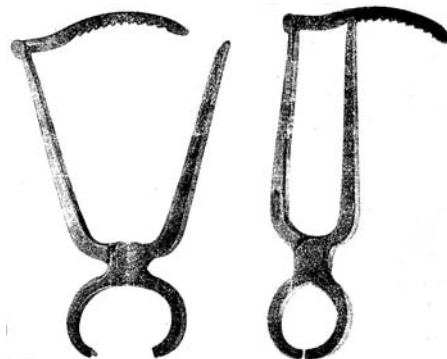
**WHAT IS IT?**

The mystery item in News 77:  
1860s patent. A machine for Rolling and Slitting Wrought Iron plates.

What is this tool?



Laurie seeks TTTG's help in identifying the following tool.



## **President's Annual Report.**

With another election due it is time for the President to be visible!

### **What has the Committee been doing in 2003/2004?**

In the previous year TTTG has experienced both growth and consolidation.

Our finances are healthy and membership continues to grow.

A number of activities have promoted and strengthened TTTG.

### **TTTG Workshops.**

The workshops have attracted a number of new members.

TTTG pays \$50 per workshop for the use of the venue and modest returns have been made from each workshop. At the end of 2004 the Committee will review the Workshop Programme.

Sharpening and Plane Fettle appear to be the most popular workshops.

Jim Davey has been very generous in conducting these workshops, as have been the Committee members who regularly assist at the workshops.

Metal Working was well attended and received positive comments.

It will be interesting to see how successful are the Planing Workshops.

The Workshop Programme will be published in several magazines in 2004/5.

This should generate increased demand.

It is evident that there is a demand for classes teaching traditional skills.

The age range of participants is diverse, a healthy sign!

### **TTTG Publications.**

All TTTG publications have been well received.

The Carter Tools Leaflet has made modest sales.

Benn's Encyclopaedia of Hardware 1954 was well received and is certain to become a collector's item.

The much-awaited John's Pages is about to be printed.

Other publications are planned for 2004/5.

### **TTTG Newsletter. News.**

News continues to be produced without any significant technical problems.

We made an attempt in the previous year to increase the quality of News.

The intention in the next year is to increase the size of News.

The inclusion of reprints such as Benn's may well be a regular event.

Increased membership and other income sources such as commissions on sales and workshops has allowed a reduction of advertiser space in News.

It will cost more to produce a better newsletter but we are almost there.

### **TTTG Web Page.**

Darcy has set up and maintained an outstanding Web Page.

The Committee realised how good it is when we noticed other groups were following TTTG's format!

Members are encouraged to use the Links on our Web Site and to contribute items. It is your Web Page so take full advantage of what it offers.

### **TTTG General Meetings.**

The TTTG General Meetings are now well attended.

For several years attendance was between 25 to 30 persons. In the previous year attendance first rose to 35 to 40 persons and then peaked at 40-50 persons. The figure of 50 plus has been sustained for several meetings.

This places strain on the venue but the Committee believes this is still the best meeting place in Sydney. The cost to TTTG is \$50 per meeting. And Parking is free.

### **TTTG Auctions.**

In the previous year the General Meetings were concluded with an auction.

The auction started as a "one off" concession to members who wanted to sell a few surplus tools. Such auctions are an enjoyable part of the evening.

Now so popular the Auction is an entrenched part of the meetings.

### **TTTG Trading.**

TTTG has avoided conducting tool sales.

Henry Black's Tool Sales provide an annual Sydney outlet.

We do sell tools on commission via two means.

These are the Auctions, the Timber and working with Wood Show and at Henry's Sydney Tool Sale.

At the next meeting we are trialing a Trading Hour to provide an opportunity for members to buy and sell quality tools. Vendor's commission is 10%.

### **TTTG Promotions.**

The TTTG Committee has been active in promoting the group.

The TTTG Stall at the Timber and working with Wood Show was well received by the public. Thanks to all who assisted.

TTTG was present at Henry's 2003 Tool Sale and will be there again on August 15.

Volunteers for the TTTG Stand are welcome.

## **2004 TTTG Workshops.**

August 22.

### **Hand planing.**

How to use hand planes to achieve accurate work.

September 19.

### **Moulding planes, fillisters and ploughs.**

How to set up and use moulding planes.

October 17.

### **Combination planes.**

How to set up and use combination planes.

November 21.

### **Shaves and Scrapers.**

How to use all types of spokeshaves and scrapers.

All workshops commence at 9.30 am and conclude at 3.30 pm.

All workshops are held at Asquith Boys High School. Jersey Road Asquith.

Members:\$20

Non Members:\$40

## **About the TTTG Workshops.**

There are a number of skills based workshops available in Sydney

But TTTG workshops are arguably the best available.

Our workshops offer these features:

- The lowest cost.
- Quality teaching.
- Excellent facilities.

And some of our courses are not available elsewhere.

Where else can you learn saw sharpening or how to use specialist planes?

## **What do you think?**

To plan future workshops we need some feed back from members.

It appears these workshops are most in demand:

- Sharpening.
- Plane Fettling.
- Saw Sharpening.
- Metalworking.

## **Correspondence.**

### **Australian Abrasives.**

The editor,

The comments on the firm "Australian Abrasives" in TTTG Newsletter 77 brought up thoughts about Natural Abrasives - those bits of rock on which all tools were sharpened before the mid-19th century.

These natural abrasives are a particular interest of mine. I have around 60 examples and have been researching the literature on the subject. There is extensive listing of Canadian sources as well as much on European sources and a lesser amount of info on American ones (mainly the Washita and Arkansas quarries) but I have never come across any Australian ones. Don't believe that you imported all your abrasives - some must have been sourced locally.

Has anyone in TTTG any information on where, and when, Australian natural abrasives were quarried?

[Brian Read <brian.read2@ntlworld.com>](mailto:brian.read2@ntlworld.com)

Brian is the Newsletter editor of TATHS and a keen reader of News.

### **The search begins for information.**

Fred Murrell suggests that Robert Firth may have some information.

“Robert Firth probably knows more about stones than anyone in Australia. His email address is [robertfirth@bigpond.com](mailto:robertfirth@bigpond.com)

You might like him to publish his findings as an article. He has not concentrated on Australia, but on stones worldwide.”

The editor welcomes any contributions to News.

The editor has placed this request for information on Oztoolclub.

”In response to an article in TTTG News on Australian Abrasives Brian Read of TATHS has requested information on natural Australian abrasives. Specifically were oilstones and grindstones manufactured locally from Australian rocks (my term)? Any references, or perhaps a Geologist amongst our number?”

TTTG members can join Ozitoolclub.

Contact HTPAA [www.htpaa.org.au](http://www.htpaa.org.au)

## **Information.**

### **Mathieson 1899 Catalogue Reprint.**

Ken Turner told me he is printing the 1899 Mathieson Catalogue as one part, hard bound very much like the original with gold leaf writing.

Price is \$145.

I will get one it will be about as close as I will get to the original.

Darren Cartwright

So will I. Editor.

If you are interested in ordering a copy of Ken Turner's deluxe Mathieson Catalogue you can contact the editor or Darren via his site.

### **Mathieson 1870 Catalogue.**

Does anyone have a copy of Mathieson's 1870 catalogue?

If so TTTG would like to borrow with a view to reprinting.

## **Darren's Web Site.**

Another place to buy quality tools and books is always welcome.

Darren Cartwright is from Melbourne and a member of HTPAA and a new member of TTTG. His web site is worth a visit.

"I am a Carpenter and Joiner by trade. Most of my work is on the carpentry side, but I much prefer traditional Joinery. Unfortunately there is not much call for it anymore.

Even then they go and muck up your work by painting it.

I mainly use and collect tools by Mathieson; they are common but well made. I am also starting to make my own infill planes. I feel there is no comparison between an infill and a Stanley/Bailey plane. I find the weight and irons are no match. A good old timber jack out performs a No 5 any day in my opinion.

I have a website where I sell surplus tools and any member of HTPAA is welcome to list items there at no charge.

[http://au.geocities.com/trade\\_tools\\_au/index.html](http://au.geocities.com/trade_tools_au/index.html)

### **Back Issues of News.**

Do you want a back issue of News?  
Get in early to secure back issues.

### **Dank's 1942 Catalogue.**

A limited edition reprint is currently in production.  
Order early to secure a copy.

### **John's Pages.**

A proof copy will be available for examination at the next meeting.  
Advance orders will be taken.  
Copies will be signed by John, by request and subject to his approval.

### **Australian Made Machinery Directory.**

Wood and Metal Working Machinery.

**John Bates** is compiling this Directory.

Any information would be appreciated.

Illustrations are needed for this Directory.

Do you have any of the following?

- Old Catalogues by Australian Machinery Manufacturers.
- Old Leaflets by Australian Machinery Manufacturers.
- Old Invoices from Australian Machinery Manufacturers.
- Packaging material from Australian Machinery Manufacturers.

### **Carter Plane Leaflet.**

The Reprint of an undated Carter Tools colour Leaflet is still available.  
A limited number are available. Cost is \$5 each, postage is extra.

### **TTTG Library Catalogue.**

Work has begun on a TTTG Library Catalogue.

This will be an invaluable resource for TTTG members.

Projected publication date has been extended to 2005.

### **Donations for TTTTG Tool Boxes.**

The Committee is still seeking donations for the TTTG Tool Boxes.  
Cabinet makers' and Carriage makers' tools from 1920 to 1940 needed.  
Any tools marked N.S.W. Railways would be appreciated.  
TTTG has three Railway Workshop Tool Boxes.

For full details of all TTTG Events see the Web Page. [www.tttg.org.au](http://www.tttg.org.au)

## **THE LEDGER**

### **New Members**

On behalf of the TTTG Executive and Members, a welcome is extended to the following new Members :-

**Jack McQuillan**  
**Peter Flannigan**

**Jeff Shilton**

**Bill Gollop**

**Rolf Cambridge**

**Peter Teerman**

**Richard Bubb-Edwards**

**Terry Miller**

**Bob Brown**

**David Long**

**Mark Soward**

**Richard Cannon**

**Tracy Gumm**

Several of these new Members joined as a result of their participation at TTTG's Metalworking Workshop and Edgetool Sharpening / Plane Fetting Workshop.

These workshops are going from strength to strength as word of them spreads (and they cost only \$20 for members). Fifteen attended the sharpening workshop conducted by Jim Davy and President Bob. No matter how skillful you are at sharpening, you will still learn a lot from these knowledgeable demonstrators. The friendly, informal, social atmosphere is another benefit of the workshops.

“The Bench Planes” is the subject of the next all-day workshop to start at 9:30 am on Sunday, 22<sup>nd</sup> August, 2004 at Asquith Boys' High School. (Information and bookings with Peter Evans on 0419 245 699.)

The Treasurer's Annual Statement of Income and Expenditure for the financial Year 2003-04 will be presented at the 10 August TTTG Meeting. It is anticipated that (subject to the receipt of bank statements) it will show that, whilst we still must maintain our fiscal rectitude, we will have sufficient funds such that it will be possible to publish further booklets similar to Benns' Encyclopaedia which proved very popular with Members. The Executive is also investigating the purchase of a portable sound system as, with the increased attendance at meetings, it is sometimes difficult for those sitting at the back of the room to hear clearly speakers who have a quiet voice.

Clynt Sheehy  
Hon. Treasurer

**TTTG SUBSCRIPTION RENEWAL NOTICE**

**2004 – 05 SUBSCRIPTIONS  
FELL DUE ON 1<sup>st</sup> JULY, 2004**

**(TTTG Memberships are based on the financial year  
1<sup>st</sup> July to 30<sup>th</sup> June)**

**PLEASE FORWARD A CHEQUE FOR \*\$30  
(MADE OUT TO TTTG Inc.) TO :**

**The Treasurer  
TTTG Inc.  
PO Box N240  
GROSVENOR PLACE  
SYDNEY NSW 1220**

\* If you live more than 50 km from Sydney or you are a pensioner, then you MAY CHOOSE TO PAY only \$22.50

**Please advise if you have CHANGED your address from that shown on your Newsletter address label.**

It would be helpful if you would write your name and Membership Number on the back of your cheque. ( See Newsletter envelope address label for your Membership Number.)

Should you require a receipt, please enclose a stamped self-addressed envelope with your payment or see the Hon. Treasurer, Clynt Sheehy, at a TTTG meeting.

**The Treasurer has ALREADY RECEIVED 2004-05 subscription payments from the following members (as at 18<sup>th</sup> July, 2004). These members should ignore this notice.**

10	68	195	228	242	262	305	328	335	342	349
15	113	196	232	245	264	309	329	336	343	350
23	129	200	235	250	268	314	330	337	344	351
31	133	206	236	253	269	315	331	338	345	352
35	163	213	238	256	275	319	332	339	346	353
43	164	214	240	260	281	320	333	340	347	et
49	190	227	241	261	292	321	334	341	348	seq.

**John's Page.**

John Daniel

**One cannot help but smile.**

It is hard to imagine that the Mathieson coffin shaped smoother in Photo 1 once passed over a hardware shop's counter in pristine condition.

The tinplate sheathing (possibly cut out of the side of a kerosene tin) extended its life somewhat, evidenced by the amount of wear on it, and the screw and nail in the side managed to keep the wedge and blade in place a little longer.

The No. 120 Stanley block plane in Photo 2 suffered an image problem when its owner found a solution for a cracked knob. Insulation tape bandaged around the injury and a brass nut screwed in place added to its longevity.

One cannot help but smile.

John Daniel



Photo 1



Photo 2

**Another Aussie.**

**Star Saw Handle.**

I had just started sorting out another consignment of tools etc that TTTG has agreed to sell. Amongst these was a Fraser Saw Sharpener in original box with a copy of the instructions.

Also in the box was a saw handle, an ugly brute, probably bakelite.

The handle may be same age as the Fraser Saw Sharpener.

On the toe under side of the handle is the following text:

4" and under files No.6.STAR AUST.PAT.146825.

No.6 suggests a range of sizes were available.

I emailed this information to Rod Thomas and received this reply,  
"Terry Butcher tends to advise me of his Aus finds. During the last fortnight he sent some information through on the Star File Handle. Up until then I was not aware of their existence, now we have a 100% increase in sightings. Sounds as though there may be some variation in the materials used. In Terry's case the knob being solid red acrylic and the main body clear but reddish acrylic. Also Terry's had a piece of paper with it, "on the inside of the clear plastic". On one side -

STAR FILE HANDLE  
WITH HARDENED  
DIE  
SCREW ON ALL  
TANG TOOLS  
PAT. NO 146825  
AUST.

MANUFACTURED BY  
CYRIL A. PRYKE  
PTY LTD

Has anyone else sighted a Star Saw File Handle?

## Fraser Saw Sharpener.

The Fraser Saw Sharpener has been featured in previous issues of News. There has been speculation about the effectiveness of this device.

The instructions reproduced explain how to use Fraser Saw Sharpener.

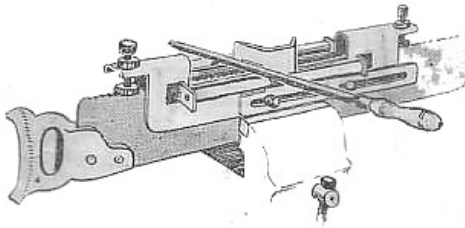
The Fraser Saw Sharpener is a sharpening jig.

It can only be used to sharpen bevel filed crosscut teeth.

It cannot be used to recut teeth or to sharpen rip teeth.

# *The Fraser* **SAW SHARPENER**

Pat. App. 13369/52

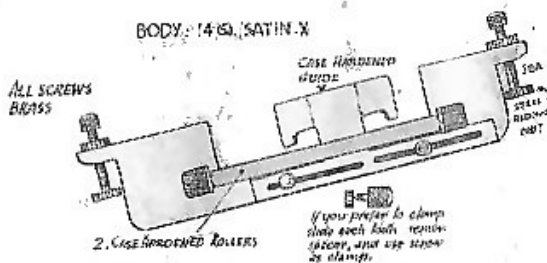


- Perfect Jig for Filing Saws.
- Simple Slide Guides File.
- Even Gullet, Accurate Bevels.

**19/6** inc. Sales Tax

*Instructions for Use*

*The Fraser Saw Sharpener*  
is well made. Guaranteed 12 months.



Cadmium plated all over against rust.  
N.B.—Plating on rollers will mark with file but don't worry over this.

Setting of teeth must be done with a conventional setter

"The Fraser" is a sharpening jig only

Use a three-corner file with face wider than side of tooth being filed. Parallel files can be used rubbing against the slide as an angle guide, but are difficult to get, taper files are quite satisfactory but must be sighted on the guide.

Spares available on request

DISTRIBUTED BY MACARTHUR AGENCIES

Sydney: 82-84 Sussex St. Melbourne: 390 Spencer St. Fremantle: 34 Queen St. Port Adelaide: 219 Vincent St. Brisbane: 82 Eagle St.

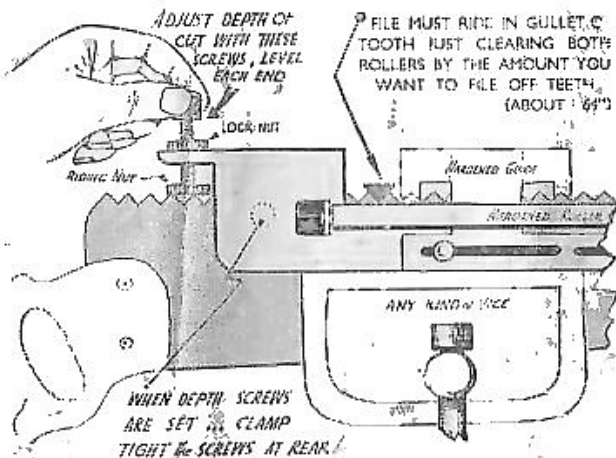
*Manufactured by*

**C. HOMER FRASER**

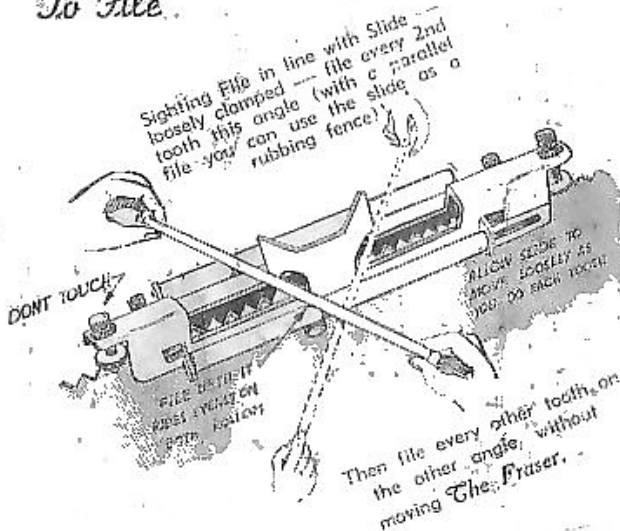
485-493 PLENTY ROAD PRESTON, VIC., AUSTR.

(Sales only through approved Stores)

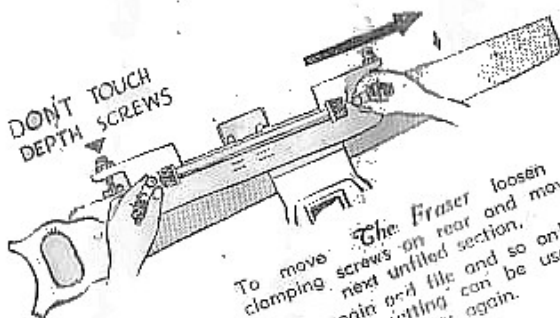
## Depth of Teeth



## To File



## Move The Fraser thus . . .



To move The Fraser loosen two clamping screws on rear and move to next unfilled section. Clamp again and file and so on! The same depth setting can be used over and over again.

Continue this until saw is all filed  
Takes less than 30 minutes

## Other Points about the Fraser

### Jointing

(FIXING POINT LEVEL)



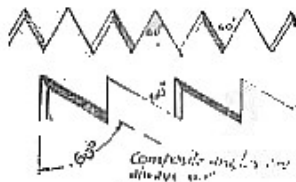
Depth Screws full up—clamp flat file as shown lightly sweep crests of teeth to file or  $\frac{1}{8}$ " camber as desired

### For the last inch

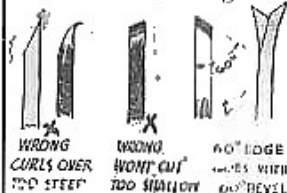


Steel ruler clamped over and enables filing of last teeth

### The Bevels are right



### Correct Cutting Teeth



## THE STORY OF A TOOL BOX

Terry Butcher

It all started with a 'phone call from a friend in Sydney.

"Are you interested in a box of tools from 1830?" asked the caller,

After getting a 'phone number I burnt my fingers on the 'phone buttons in my haste to ring.

Yes, the box of tools does exist but belonged to a gentleman who was born in 1830, married in South Africa and came to Australia in 1861.

The present owner, an elderly lady, selling up her Sydney home to move to the Gold Coast had offered the box of tools to her children and grand-children, but thanks, no, not much use to us - so there we were, negotiating a price for a box with, as she said, about forty items. The only item she recognised was a bow saw. Well, that was a good start, so I suggested a price based on forty tools and a hundred-and-forty year old box. She agreed and then arrangements were made to have the box picked up and transported to Hobart.

This took about three weeks, many 'phone calls and disappointments when the damn thing didn't arrive when expected. However, it did eventually turn up. A king's ransom to the carrier - they now have a minimum price for anything under a cubic metre and that's pretty expensive.

We had a whole day in town ahead of us so it sat in the back unopened until we finally arrived back home at Cloudy Bay. But then I had to feed the dogs, unload the car and prepare dinner before I was allowed to unlock and peer inside. Two trays were on the top so these were carefully removed to the kitchen where a careful inspection took place.

You all know the story of my grandfather's axe. Yes, that's this all right - only had to change the handle three times and the head twice, but, yep, that's his axe all right.

Well, the contents of the trays gave me the clue that I was in a similar situation. A number of twist drills, a few wood bits with some rust, a moulder's spoon, a toolmaker's square and a piece of steel shaped to a mitre. A dozen awls and other shoe-making tools plus shoemaker's hammer and pliers. A rose bit with a depth stop took my fancy as now I found something I did not already have.

Sadly I went off to bed, thinking no doubt I'm going to discover in the bottom section a similar miscellany of bits and pieces.

One item I removed from the top was a letter from the previous owner which contained a few notes from the genealogy of her family, putting into perspective the relationship of the various owners of the box.

I can only assume that one Silas Cecil Rice, born Bristol (U.K.) on 29-11-1832, died in Sydney 6-7-1909, was the first owner of the box as the oldest tools in it carried his mark, S.C. PRICE, stamped on various tools. Silas had eight children including a son George Thomas, born 20-10-1865 in Auckland, (N.Z.), died 21-6-1947 at Burwood (N.S.W.). His name appears on the inside rim of the box.

The next generation included a son of George Thomas, Herbert Arthur, born 11 - 11- 1892 at Darlington, died 18-7-1982 at Castle Hill. He was only a caretaker passing the box and remaining tools to his son, Arthur James Herbert Rice, born 13-12-1909, died 2-8-2002. He was the father of the previous owner. She told me her father was a furniture restorer and also a builder. She said she was fascinated watching him working and regretted not learning from the experience.

So, I hear you say, "what did you find?". Well, I have to say right now "not much" but added up we have a small sample of history. I've yet to puzzle out the story.

Firstly I came across two bow-saws, one in beech, no name, but marked with S.C. PRICE and in good condition; the other could, and may well have been, user-made - looks like red gum for the main frame and cross bar - handles, I think, beech.

Now I found six good working moulding planes, four being rounds, one reverse ogee and the last a Dutch moulder rebate (no name). Three were Mathieson, one Atkins and one ?, not used much - blades maybe sharpened once or twice. A moving fillester with three guide plates on the sole, maker ?. This plane had been used a lot and the depth stop removed and lost, wedge a bit of a mess.

Next, a pair of chisels - here is a puzzle - the first is a huge paring gouge 2 1/2" (65mm.) wide, 7" (180mm) long with a radius of about 1 1/2" (40mm). The maker is G. Pearson of Sheffield. The second chisel is also a paring gouge with a replacement handle, again, no name. They look like shipwright's chisels to me though I've never seen one like the first, illustrated or described in any catalogue.

The next plane was a small 6 " (152mm) stop chamfer plane with the stop jammed tight in its throat and no blade, but a wedge, also very tight, a nice user-made tool with no markings at all, but looks like early to mid 19th century.

A small parcel of metal block planes came next. These included a double-ender Siegley similar to Stanley 130, complete and in clean condition; a German made similar to Stanley 110; a very small 4" long double-ender, also in good nick but no name and a Mathieson coffin smoother in almost pristine condition.

Lastly, the big ones -all wood, two jack planes and one fore or jointer. One of the jacks being a Mathieson and the fore plane a Mosely.

The fore has had a tremendous amount of use. It was originally polished but allowed to dry and crackle and where the hands contacted the handle and the front of the plane the amount of use is very obvious judging by the high shine of the wood, and on the handle quite deep impressions of the thumb and fore-finger are in evidence. The plane is in good condition.

The box itself has its original finish on the outside, whatever it was, possibly varnish or French polish, but time has reduced it to a very rough appearance and faded it to a slightly purple tinge. The outside lid has the usual saw cuts, chisel nicks and spots of paint to mar the surface. The original iron lock has gone but the brass escutcheon remains. A hasp and staple have been added for security, I guess about 1900 by the design and lack of wear under the hasp. Inside are two trays stacked with their own tracks - the lower being a bit shorter than the upper one - mahogany used throughout the box and trays. The divider is missing. Inside the lid, the varnish looks good and original and in clean condition.

The rope handles also look original and are nicely spliced. If not used too often they will last for quite a time yet.

The box measured 17 ½" (445mm) high x 19" (482mm) wide and 36" (915mm) long and is by far the jewel in the crown.

## eBay Watch #1 by eBay Tragic

Peter Evans.

This is a new intermittent column exposing the foibles of buying on eBay.

Surfing eBay is an increasingly popular pastime for members, and I ask you to email titbits of folly, wisdom, panic, joy, and bankruptcy to the editor of this journal of record.

Some recent examples of excited bidding. Item 6105067050, **Lie Nielsen Low Angle Bronze Block Plane** went for (including postage) \$193. Now the rrp is \$203, therefore hardly a bargain, especially for such a specialised plane. The US rrp price is AU\$133; this leaves a lot for postage!

A quick Google search revealed a price of AU\$123, and I am sure with a bit of diligence you could find it for less, and the airmail postage is around AU\$14; this means buying for around AU\$140, and with security.

An Eclipse Honing Guide mint in the box went for \$80. As you can purchase an equivalent Taiwanese copy for \$12, this price resulted from a bidding war between two collectors, both pipped on the post by a “sniper”.

A sniper is a person, often using special software, who makes a bid a few seconds before auction closing. Expect to be sniped regularly, I know I am, but then I am mostly bidding low.

Someone with lots of spare time has worked out there are more than twice as many Stanley #45 as #4 planes for sale on eBay; this probably accounts for the slow drift downwards in #45 price (damn! I have one to get rid of). I really like this quote from an item description “This is a somewhat unusual plane (Model number 78) made by Stanley Tools. It looks quite old and I would guess it must be from the early part of the last century, but may be earlier. It is a double bladed Plane which I believe was used to remove high quantities of wood with fewer strokes.” Got to get one of those, jeez half the work.

Now a sniper should not be confused with a “shill bidder”.

If you are wondering what a shill bidder is, check out Hans Brunner’s website, <http://www.hansbrunnertools.gil.com.au/auswooda.htm>, where he discusses a local version. In the next column I will discuss the “shill bidder” phenomenon plus any other idiocy I come across.

## eBay Watch #1 by eBay Tragic

eBay tip #1:

Some people fall into the trap of “wanting” a particular item, and bid up in the excitement. **Do not do this**; there will be another one at a better price along shortly.

eBay tip #2:

If you are bidding on a book, check the on-line used book site – [abebooks.com](http://abebooks.com) – for the same title. This gives a good indication of the going price; and demonstrates the wide price variation between used bookshops. You **know** the maximum price to pay (i.e. the less than the cheapest used bookshop). Armed with this knowledge you will be amazed how expensive, and how cheap, are some of the items on eBay.

As an example I purchased a book on eBay for \$2.50; the range of prices on Abebooks.com was \$12.50 to \$42, so this is ok. On the other hand I purchased another book for \$13, and Abe books prices ranged from \$17 to \$60, getting closer to retail, I wasn't paying proper attention it seems.

Don't forget to send in those eBay beauties.

## Henry's Sydney Tool Sale

Henry's Sydney Tool Sale is on again!

Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> August

Concord High School (same venue as last year)

Stanley Street Concord 9am to 2pm

## Book Review.

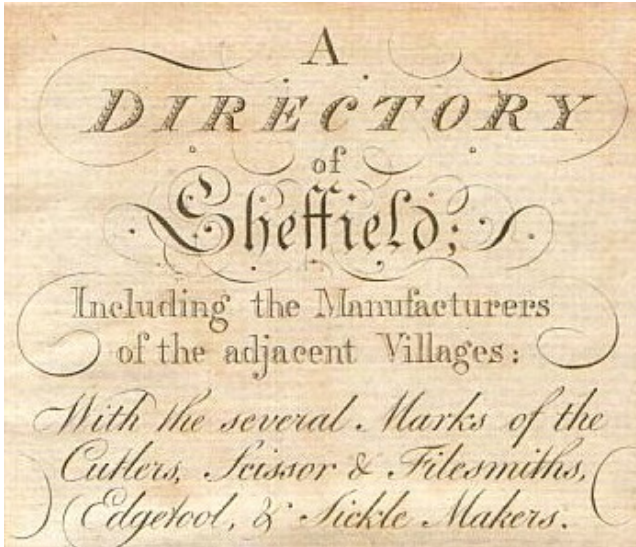
### A Directory of Sheffield

A reproduction of the 1787 Directory of Sheffield  
Which includes the marks of the cutlers, scissor and  
filesmiths, edgetool and sickle makers.

Published by the Tool & Trades History Society 2004.

Introduction by Jane Rees.

ISBN 0 947673 15 6



If you have an interest in old tools you must have a copy of this book. The original text is an invaluable reference for the serious collector while Jane Rees' introduction provides an excellent synopsis of the history of the tool manufacturing industries of Sheffield.

TATHS has donated a copy of this publication to the TTTG Library. Without question many members of TTTG will wish to purchase a copy. Cost is Eleven pounds and ninety-five pence (U.K.) plus post and packing. The Committee will place an order with TATHS on behalf of members. The Editor has already placed his order! This is a well-produced reprint and will enhance any library.

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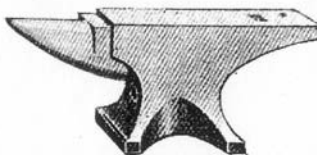
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