

NEWS 132



August 2013

TTTG Inc.

www.tttg.org.au

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TTTG Candid Camera

TTTG Blacksmithing Workshop
2013 Sydney Wood Show

Next Meeting

Tuesday 13 August
Annie Wyatt Room

National Trust Centre

Observatory Hill Sydney

Entry \$5 *'Doors open 7pm'*

Annual General Meeting

Guest Speaker:

Corin Urquhart

Corin works as a gas engineer and will talk to us about gas furnaces blacksmithing and various speciality tool steels, their composition and properties. His talk will be illustrated with Powerpoint slides. Make sure that you don't miss it

Auction

The August meeting will conclude with the ever popular TTTG auction. A fine selection of quality user tools certain to include **many bargains!**

TTTG Membership \$35

For only \$35 a year TTTG members receive a quality newsletter and a discount on workshop fees.

TTTG fees will remain at the current rate for at least another year.

TTTG Inc.

GENERAL MEETINGS

The general meetings are at the National Trust Centre Observatory Hill, Sydney.

This location is easy to reach by public transport. There is ample parking close to the meeting room.

Parking is free, safe and secure.

The general meetings are in the Annie Wyatt Room.

Refreshments are provided.

The entry fee is \$5.

TTTG Inc. Contacts

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PO Box 314 Lindfield NSW**

Enquires

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www.tttg.org.au

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Next Meeting

Tuesday 13 August

National Trust Centre

Annual General Meeting

Guest Speaker: Blacksmithing, Gas furnaces and speciality steels

Entry \$5

'Doors open at 7pm'

SELLING TOOLS

*In some circumstances TTTG sells tools for **members only**.
The selling fee is 20% commission on sales.*

DONATIONS

TTTG accepts donations of old tools.

Last Meeting

Tuesday June 11

TTTG Tool Chest

TTTG recently purchased an outstanding nineteenth century Cabinet Makers' Tool Chest.

This Tool Chest was be on display at the last meeting and greatly admired by the audience.

The Tool Chest is British Isles, middle nineteenth century and is fitted with sliding tills, trays and drawers. The inside of the lid, tills and drawers and trays are finely veneered with figured mahogany.

There was a talk on the history and construction of high quality elaborate Joiner's Tool Chests.

Lifeline also offered a selection of quality technical books for sale at very modest prices.

The quality books sold by Lifeline balanced the modest selection of old tool auctioned at this meeting.

Are old tools becoming scarce?

TTTG Tool Collection

TTTG has several Tool Chests. They include two made in the NSW Government Railway workshops in the between the wars years. TTTG also has a Joiner's Tool Chest, with sliding trays, made in the first half of the nineteenth century.

The TTTG Tool Collection contains many fine and rare hand tools.

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Corin Urquhart works as a gas engineer and will talk to us about gas furnaces blacksmithing and various speciality tool steels, their composition and properties. His talk will be illustrated with Powerpoint slides. Make sure that you don't miss it

Auction

An auction of tools and associated ironmongery concludes the evening.

Proposed Publication

The TTTG Tool Chests

The recently acquired TTTG Tool Chest is "world class". The other TTTG Tool Boxes are significant artefacts.

The TTTG Committee plans to publish drawings, photographs and analysis of the TTTG Tool Chests.

When TTTG secures a "home base" the tool chests and Tool Collection will conserved and displayed

The TTTG Tool Chest will be on display at the 2013 Sydney WWW Show.

President's Annual Report

2012/13 was another year of growth for TTTG. Membership and the bank balance continued to grow.

The Meetings and Workshops were well attended. *NEWS* retained the usual high standard of content and presentation now taken as normal by TTTG members and other readers.

The year did present some challenges to the Committee. There are ongoing problems constantly presented by TTTG's homeless status.

TTTG is communicating with two local Councils regarding redundant council properties. The Committee is pursuing all possibilities to secure suitable premises. The growth of Men's Sheds in Sydney reflects the number of sites that cannot be redeveloped for commercial usage.

The ideal site for a TTTG Home Base would be between Homebush and Hornsby along the train line.

The TTTG Tool Collection continues to grow but the collection is stored in unsuitable conditions. At present it is not possible to document or conserve the tools or make them accessible to the members and the public.

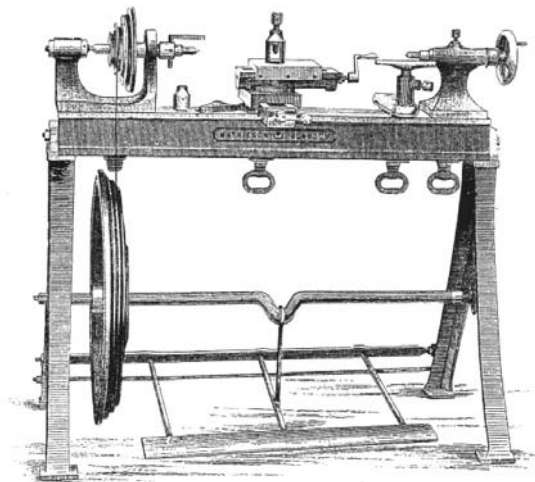
The 2013 Tool Sale was successful!

The TTTG Library continues to grow but the books are in various locations with the majority stored in unsuitable conditions. At present it is not possible to document or conserve the tools or make them accessible to the members and the public.

The TTTG Workshops continue to attract participants. However with one exception, the Blacksmithing workshop, the workshops are held in an inadequate workshop space. The presenters are conscious of the need to tailor content of the classes to the limitations of the facilities.

Donations continue to be offered to TTTG. When the donations are large the Committee has to solve some major logistical problems.

Recently the committee has accepted the donation of a treadle lathe, made in Berlin around 1860. Nothing is known of the maker except that he exhibited at the Great Exhibition in London in 1851. The lathe is a screw cutting lathe but not a self-acting lathe. In appearance it is similar to the Mathieson plain lathe below.



The future of TTTG is dependent on securing a home base.

Without secure premises TTTG cannot grow and may not be able to continue to offer quality workshops. TTTG has a Tool Collection Library moth balled and in need of a home.

The new TTTG logo

TTTG has used a number of logos in the last twenty years. The most memorable is the image appropriated from the 1940's *Tough* trademark.

The Committee has been looking for a logo that is Australian and conveys TTTG's core values. In other words an image of a hand tool being used.

At a Committee Meeting there was an animated discussion regarding the desirability of replacing the *Tough* man with a more sedate individual. After the meeting Matt Pryor emailed a sketch to the editor. Matt's drawing has become the new TTTG Inc. logo. The drawing is from a 1945 book published by the Commonwealth of Australia Department of Labour and National Service Industrial Training Unit. *Carpentry & Joinery*



The NEXT WORKSHOP

4 August 2013

Saw Sharpening

Filing and setting handsaws

Venue: 28 Pomeroy Street. Strathfield

Bring your lunch and wear safe shoes. Workshop starts at 9.15am

TTTG 2013 Workshops

One day skills centred, “hands on” and affordable workshops have been offered for over a decade by TTTG.

Participants at the workshops are must wear sensible clothing and footwear. Refreshments are provided.

Workshop Venues

-28 Pomeroy Road
Strathfield

*Bring your lunch Wear safe shoes
Workshops start at 9.15am*

How Much?

Members \$20
Others \$40

Join at workshop for \$55*

The Planes Workshops

A series of workshops concentrating on the use of all types of hand planes

18 August **Sharpening**
15 September **Planes: Basic**
20 October **Planes: Special**
3 November **Planes: Advanced**

Workshops to develop skills

Workshop Presenters for the Planes Workshops

Jim Davey and Bob Crosbie will demonstrate plane tuning and use.

Jim will have IBC plane blades and quality planes and tools for sale.

A chance to try and buy!

TTTG Workshops

What you get

Value for money

TTTG workshops are value for money. *There is no need to argue this point, just do a Google search and compare the cost of other workshops.*

Great selection

Some TTTG workshops are unique. Try and find other one day workshops on Blacksmithing or Saw Sharpening.

Great teaching

Cost aside the teaching at the Workshops is second to none.

Great side benefits

Apart from good tea, coffee and a selection of biscuits attending a TTTG Workshop has several lateral benefits.

Tools for Sale

At every TTTG Workshop there are tools on sale. Both old and new tools are offered at excellent prices.

Quality user tools are often available

Parts Wanted

Richard Kennewell (Member 688) has a “Liberty Bell” Jack plane which is missing its blade and chip breaker. If any members can help him with the missing bits could they please contact him on (02) 4365 2637

TTTG Planes Workshops

After the Sydney WWW Show the TTTG Planes workshops return.

Jim Davey and Bob Crosbie will conduct a series of workshops designed to develop skills in using all types of woodworking planes.

Sharpening Edge Tools

Sunday 18 August 2013

Sharpening planes and chisels

Grinding and honing techniques

Oil and Water stones

Ceramic and Diamond plates

Freehand sharpening

Sharpening devices

Jim Davey and Bob Crosbie

Plane Tuning I Basic

Sunday 15 September 2013

The mechanics of planes

Truing plane soles

Preparing plane blades

Setting and using planes

Jim Davey and Bob Crosbie

Jim Davey merchandise

Jim always brings a selection of his stock to the TTTG Workshops.

A great chance to try and buy

Special Purpose Planes

Sunday 20 October 2013

Ploughs and Combination planes

Shoulder and Rebate planes

Compass planes and Shaves

Wooden and Metal planes

How to use special purpose planes

Bob Crosbie

Plane Tuning II Advanced

Sunday 3 November 2013

Consolidates Plane Tuning 1 Basic

Edge joints

End grain

Advanced techniques

Jim Davey and Bob Crosbie

The TTTG Planes Workshops have developed a reputation for being the best “skills based” workshops offered in Sydney. These workshops are always well attended. *A TTTG workshop and practice will improve skills.*

Jim Davey offers a selection of quality tools and sharpening equipment at every workshop he presents. *The best quality tools at the best prices.*

Venue: 28 Pomeroy Street Strathfield **Cost: \$40** (\$20 for Members)

Participants will need to wear suitable footwear and bring your lunch.

Light refreshments, tea, coffee and biscuits, are provided.

2013 Sydney Timber and Working With Wood Show

The TTTG Demonstrations

There were demonstrations of traditional woodworking skills.

-Timber Preparation -Joint Cutting -
Special planes -Shaped work -
Saw Sharpening -Drawknives

Old Tools for Sale

Over the years an attraction of the TTTG Stand has been the quality and reasonable price of the many old tools offered to the public. The 2013 Show again provided an opportunity to purchase top quality old tools from reputable and friendly vendors.

Jim Davey

Jim was at his corner of the TTTG Stand demonstrating plane tuning and sharpening.

The TTTG Exhibit

The centre piece was the recently acquired nineteenth century Joiner's Tool Chest.

A wide selection of rare and unusual hand tools were on display.

This year the tool display included veteran power tools.

The Tool Chest and the Ripsnorter were both "crowd stoppers".



PLANES

FULLY FETTLED (TUNED) AND SHARP
STANLEY BAILEY, BEDROCK & BLOCK PLANES
FETTLING SERVICE, REPAIRS, WELDING

TRADE PRICES ON:



DMT DIAMOND PLATES - DIA-SHARP PLATES



ICE BEAR & KING WATERSTONES

M2 HSS ACADEMY BLADES, LEATHER CHISEL ROLLS AND COVERS



AGENT FOR CARBA-TEC

CREDIT CARD FACILITIES:



VISA



Jim Davey

Ph 02 4447 8822(W) 4447 8790(AH) PO Box 967 Nowra NSW 2541
JDAVEY@bigpond.com www.jimdavey-planes-sharpening.com

THE LEDGER

New Members

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

Andre du Toit	M687
Richard Kennewell	M688
Peter Moore	M689

We hope you find your membership rewarding and look forward to your participation in our activities.

Next Year's TTTG Tool Sale

Following the great success of our 2013 tool sale at the Brickpit Sports stadium, Thornleigh, TTTG has again booked this venue for our 2014 Tool Sale. It's on Sunday 23rd February, 2014 (the last Sunday before the commencement of the Brickpit's basketball season) from 9am to 1pm. It's an indoor venue with parking underneath; so even if we have the deluge that preceded the 2013 sale, you need not get wet.

Because of trader satisfaction from the 2013 sale, several traders have already booked tables for the 2014 sale (hire remains at \$40 per table and customer entry \$5 per head with free entry for disinterested spouses and accompanied children).

If you'd like to book one or more tables, please let me know on (02) 9416 7134 or treasurer@tttg.org.au

TTTG Aprons

I'll be bringing our TTTG aprons to future meetings and workshops. The aprons are very well made of strong material and sell for only \$25 each. It's best to get them from me in person as the cost (including packaging) by registered mail is \$36.20

each. These dark green aprons are boldly but tastefully embroidered:

**THE
TRADITIONAL
TOOLS
GROUP**

2013-2014 TTTG MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE NOW OVERDUE !!

If you haven't yet paid your 2013-2014 TTTG subscription please pay it now ! A yellow overdue reminder page has been loosely inserted in this issue of News for those recalcitrants who have not yet paid their 2013-2014 subs. If we have not paid your subs by the time of printing TTTG October News (mid-September) then this will be your last copy of News. In the interests of economy, print runs are limited and we cannot ensure you will receive the October News if you pay after this date.

Socket Chisel Handles

I saw, on the OldTools forum website, yet another method of finding the taper when making a replacement handle for a socket chisel. Take a piece of stiff paper and roll it into a cone and insert it into the socket. Make sure it doesn't touch the pointy inside end of the socket. The paper will spring to match the inside taper. Tape the lap where the paper protrudes and mark the paper at the top of the socket.

Clynt Sheehy

TTTG Treasurer

CARTER TOOLS MYTHS



Carter never advertised

The big shops didn't sell Carter

There were no Carter brochures

CARTER TOOLS PTY. LTD.

1945 – 1948

Carter Brothers 60 Church Street, Parramatta

1950

Carter Tools Pty. Ltd. 79 Grose and Bullar Street, Parramatta

1948 – 1960

Carter Tools Pty. Ltd. 79 Grose Street, Parramatta

1960 – 1964

Carter Tools Pty. Ltd. 2 Daking Street, North Parramatta

1966 – 1977

Carter Tools Pty. Ltd. 6 Abbott Road, Seven Hills

Trevor Semmens states that plane manufacture ceased in 1955 and that Carter subsequently made trailer couplings.

Some dates are dependent on the accuracy of the telephone directories.

Ted Carter of Carter Tools was a TTTG meeting guest speaker in 1992.

Sources

Old telephone phone books

Trevor Semmens' "Australian Planemakers"

Parramatta Council.

Clynt Sheehy 8/1/2006

Carter Tools

A revisionist view

The Carter brothers (Jack and Frank) filled an important need during the tool shortages after the Second World War with their manufacture of woodworking and other tools, in particular their line of planes (well known to school boys in woodworking classes of the 1950s and 1960s). Although their planes were a little rough, their precision measuring instruments (e.g., vernier calipers and vernier depth gauges) were well made and of an appropriate standard for precise measurement. Carter Tools overcame all obstacles to produce tools for twenty years. Carter Tools never advertised and the big tool retailers didn't stock Carter Tools.

This was the conventional view of Carter Tools in the early 1990s when TTTG was founded. This view was reinforced by the comments made to Trevor Semmens by the surviving Carter brother Ted and by Ted's reminiscences at the 1992 TTTG General Meeting.

A few years later the Carter Leaflet reprinted by TTTG surfaced.

Carter Tools are in catalogues by two large tool dealers in the 1950s and 1960s, Scruttons, Goodalls.

A Carter Table Vise in original box has surfaced with a David Jones label on the box. This probably came from the basement hardware in David Jones Parramatta store. There were many home builders in Parramatta.

What else remains to be found? The leaflet and the inclusion in the catalogues of leading tool retailers argue against Ted's assertions.

The market and Carter

The tools produced by Carter Tools appear to have been selected with a keen understanding of what the potential buyers wanted.

The Carter brothers had a track record of making quality metal-worker's tools. Possibly they were approached by a tool retailer who offered advice on what would sell after the war.

Some Carter Tools reflect informed marketing decisions. Each of the following Carter tools was likely to be good seller in the 50s and 60s.

Carter Flooring Cramp

This is a copy of the Record Flooring Cramp, a superior but expensive tool. The Carter cramp was a far better tool than the common upright flooring cramps then commonly used.

Carter Bench Screw

Many home builders needed a vice but cash was short. The solution was to make a carpenter's vice with a Carter vice screw and framing offcuts.

Carter Quick Cramp

A real time saver and cheaper than the imported tool.

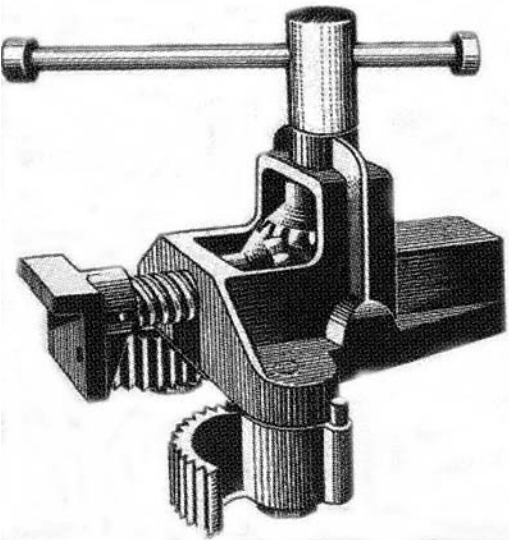
Carter C78 Plane

The handy rebate and bullnose plane as handy then as today on the building site and affordable.

Carter Flooring Cramp

CARTER TOOLS

Carter Flooring Cramp



A robust and durable tool that will stand hard usage, having a rapid screw action and a positive grip with a quick release from floor joist by lever.

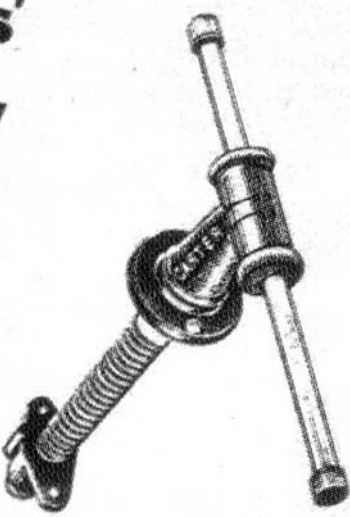
Carter Bench Screw

Woodworkers' Bench Screw

Dia. of Screw: 1"

Length from Collar: 13"

Length of Thread: 11"



The screw and handle are of the best mild steel with stub Acme thread. Attention is drawn to the particularly sturdy fittings and the strong full-circle thrust flange on the nut.

Carter Quick Cramp

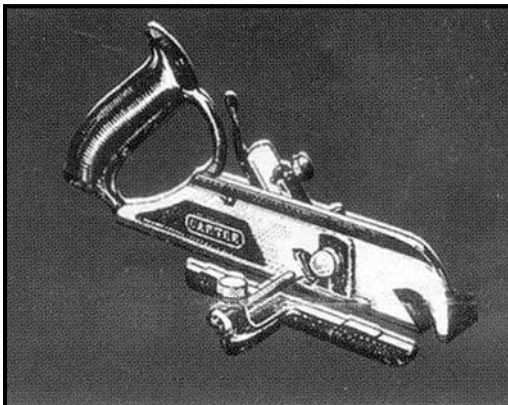
Carter Quick Adjusting Clamp



Maximum Opening:
4", 6", 8", 10"

This tool has much to recommend it as the full working range of any size selected falls quickly into position, requiring only a few turns of the screw to tighten. Of sturdy construction, the fixed end and adjustable end are of semi-steel cast iron and the slide bar is of bright steel. They are made in the above sizes:

Carter C78 Plane



CARTER DUPLEX RABBET

No.	Length of Plane	Cutter Width
C78	8½"	1½"

Two positions for the cutter are provided, one for ordinary work and the other for bull-nose work. It is fitted with an adjustable depth gauge and an adjustable fence which can be used on either side of the plane. A quick-action lever adjustment for the cutter is provided.

The Carter Leaflet

The illustrations of Carter tools are from the TTTG reprint of the Carter Leaflet.

This coloured leaflet is the only known example of Carter Tools advertising.

The leaflet is a sophisticated advertising publication.

Did Carter produce other promotional material?

The leaflet refutes the claim made by one of the Carter brothers that Carter Tools *never advertised*.

Carter News Column

The Hardware Journal

Volume 65 No. 2

15 February 1950

The writer has a copy this issue of *The Hardware Journal*.

Did the **Carter News Column** appear in other issues?

Carter News Column is anything but amateur advertising. The text is directed at a targeted audience, the retailer serving both the home builder and the tradesman with limited cash to spend and needing to make the right decision when essential buying tools.

The slogan is memorable,

Made well, Look well, Sell well

Carter Tools Pty Ltd had agents in all the Australian states and New Zealand. In NSW Carter were located in Parramatta and must have handled wholesale orders and distribution from the head office.

This contrasts with Ted Carters recollections of Carter Brothers. Ted did mention a Sales Rep. with a photo album. Who managed the office and coordinated sales?

More research into Carter would provide the answers.

The Hardware Journal and other publications must contain a details of Carter Tools Pty Ltd and other Australian tool makers in the 1950s and 1960s.

CARTER
NEWS COLUMN

CARTER

No. 5½ Jack
PLANE



Length 14", cutter 2½". A utility size, able to do the work of a Smoother, Jack or Fore plane on many jobs. Just the plane for the tradesmen's travelling tool-kit, and for the handyman, too, whose pocket limits his purchase to one plane. Fitted with new type parallel lever cap, new type thumb cam with easy leverage, and the large brass adjusting nut.

The back handle is ridgeless — perfectly shaped to fit the hand naturally and comfortably. Base and sides of the plane are machine-ground and polished straight and true. A quality Carter tool!

Ask your Wholesaler
for the

CARTER RANGE

No. 4 Smooth; No. 4½ Smooth; No. 5 Jack; No. 5½ Jack; No. 6 Fore; No. 7 Jointer; No. C1 Bench Rabbet; No. C78 Duplex Rabbet; No. 10 German Jack; No. C71 Router; and 8 oz. Brass Plumb Bob.

**Made well
Look well
Sell well!**

CARTER TOOLS PTY. LTD.
Grose & Buller Sts., Parramatta, N.S.W.

Factory Representatives:

R. R. CAFFYN Desmond Chambers Adelaide Street Brisbane	D. R. BEER 344 Lonsdale Street Melbourne Also represents in Tasmania
F. SCHUMANN A.N.A. Buildings Gawler Place Adelaide	J. H. WALTERS W.A.T.C. Buildings Esplanade Perth

H. LEIGHTON HILL LTD.
Paykel's Building
Anzac Avenue, Auckland
New Zealand

The Tools Carter Made

The Hand Tool Preservation Association of Australia site has photo gallery of Carter Tools,

www.htpaa.org.au/carter.php

This includes some Carter Tools that do not appear in known tool catalogues or the Carter Leaflet.

Carter Leaflet Tools

Offset Vices

4¹/₂", 5"

Engineers' Vices

3", 3¹/₂", 4", 5"

Flooring Cramp

Quick Adjusting Clamp

4", 6", 8", 10"

Engineers' "G" Clamps

4", 6", 8", 10"

Woodworkers' Bench Screw

CARTER TOOL REGISTER

No one seems to know exactly what tools CARTER made.

No one seems to know when CARTER stopped making tools.

TTTG is starting a Carter Register.

TTTG members are asked to send any details of CARTER tools they have seen to the TTTG editor.

Photos of CARTER tools wanted.

Copies of printed material related to CARTER are requested.

Carter Planes

<u>Number</u>	<u>Length</u>	<u>Cutter</u>
Jack Planes		
C4	9"	2"
C4 ¹ / ₂ "	10"	2 ³ / ₈ "
Bench Rebate		
C1	11 ¹ / ₂ "	2 ³ / ₈ "
German Jack		
C10	10"	2"
Fore and Jointer		
C6	18"	2 ³ / ₈ "
C7	22"	2 ³ / ₈ "
Duplex Rebate		
C78	8 ¹ / ₂ "	1 ¹ / ₂ "
Plow and Groover		
C40	5 ¹ / ₂ "	1/8", 3/16", 1/4"
Plow and Groover		
C54	9"	1/8", 3/16", 1/4", 5/16", 3/8", 7/16", 1/2", 9/16"
Router Open Throat		
C71	7 ³ / ₄ "	1/4", 3/8", 1/2"

Carter Vices

6" Woodworkers' Plain Screw Vyce

Woodworkers'
Screw Type Vyce 7", 9"

Woodworkers'
Quick Action Type Vyce 7", 9"

Carter Planes and Carter tools were stocked by Scruttons and Goodall and probably also sold by David Jones

Other Carter Tools

Numerous other carter tools have been sighted. These include Plumb Bobs, All Steel Vices and T-Tap Wrenches. Carter measuring tools are high quality as are the All Steel Vices.

***Looks Like a 78,
Feels Like a 78,
Planes like a 78***

Peter Smith

It turns out the plane is red because it is an **I.Sorby** rebate plane modelled or copied from the Stanley 78. The number 78 isn't on the plane.



One of the good things about going to junk markets, besides being able to get a half decent coffee, is that you never know what you will find. Things that look like junk to me are often sort after by others.

I suppose some people think what I like is junk. At first glance it looked like someone had painted a Stanley or Record 78 rebate plane red so that no one would steal it! The plane also had a repair to the fence.

Menai Community Markets Menai
15 September 2013 9am to 3pm

In the park adjacent to Menai Market Place, Alison Cres, Menai
UBD311 J-12 For more information ring Brad on 0414193710

Brad and his colleagues are involved in bush regeneration. They are following in the footsteps of the timber cutters, their stories live on in the Traditional Tools Group and the extensive collections of forestry tools held by the members.

TTTG will be at the Menai Community Markets demonstrating traditional skills blacksmithing and green timber working.

JD's

John Daniel

An engaging workshop

Further to Bob Crosbie's "Workshop Project" NEWS No 131.

It was a little after 8am when I arrived at the TTTG Workshop, Bob Crosbie had a box full of marking gauge kits under one arm and a mug of morning tea under the other while I trolleyed in an assortment of old gauges, bevels and squares from home. We were men well prepared and went about our well-practiced setting up for the day's workshop ahead.

This workshop was a hands-on introduction to the use of basic hand tools and the making of a simple marking gauge with a wedge-locked stem.

The workshop commenced with an introductory talk on the various examples of marking-out tools that I'd collected over the years with lots of participants' questions. It was heartening to observe the growing interest in the practices of our crafts people of yesteryear, and in particular, the interest in the simple traditional tools often found in old tool boxes that once were taken for granted by the artisan.



Now down to business: -



The stem was rounded with the assistance of a rounding cradle.

The timber had been prepared to size so all that needed to be done was to round it off. Chamfers were marked out on all four corners using a simple pencil gauge. The stock was then placed in the rounding cradle to hold the stem while chamfering to form an octagon, then rotated to remove corners then carefully rotating until the stem was round; at this stage it was important that the stem was constantly checked with a test piece so that it didn't end up undersize. As you can see from the photographs, this was the most challenging aspect of the gauge's construction with the students opting to their own choice of planes, and interestingly, the facial expressions that reflected their concentration. To quote Bob, "you don't need a lathe"



Following the rounding of the stem, the shaping of the stock was straight forward with a variety of profiles varying from rectangular, elliptical, octagonal and freeform. The fitting of the wedge was interesting as thought had to be given to the flat to be prepared on the stem to seat the wedge to prevent stem rotation. The fitting of the wedge also needed care.

The spur was next, silver steel preferred however bicycle spokes or gramophone needles were an ideal source. The spur was shaped and sharpened before inserting into a suitable prepared hole at the end of the stem.

Bob had invested a lot of time and effort into making the kits and rounding cradles to compensate for the limited facilities at the Men's shed for a hands-on experience, this coupled with the enthusiasm of our students made this a very enjoyable experience.



Parkinson's Patent Perfect Vice

Tony Tucker

Parkinson's Patent Perfect Vice for woodworking was patented in 1884 and was manufactured by the British firm J. Parkinson and Son.

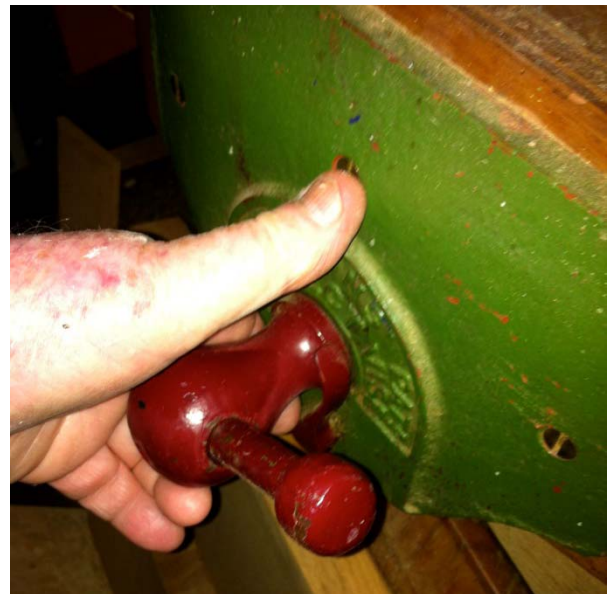
J. Parkinson and Son is credited with the invention of the quick release mechanism, later used by many other vice manufacturers. Parkinson also made an engineer's vice, with a quick release mechanism.



The vice is approximately the size of the familiar Record 92 1/2 vices, but without the familiar steel rod sliding bars. Instead, the vice features an integral cast front jaw with a fairly massive pair of rectangular bars as the runners. The bars slide with some movement but quite effectively in the rear jaw and bench attachment chassis, also cast in one piece.

The screw is the familiar record style, as is the dog. The vice opens to about 300mm, with the usual holes for fitted wooden jaws. The original paint finish was apparently reddish-brown.

The quick release mechanism is quite light and effective. In use you don't need the brawny thumbs of a blacksmith to operate it. It is possible that the Parkinson is the basic pattern which provided the model for the many similarly featured designs of the second half of the Twentieth Century, for example Record, Dawn, and many others. The photographs illustrate most of the design features. One notable similarity with early Record models was the oval shaped knob/handle, easy to grip and actuate the quick release at the same time. They are almost identical, and this could be a result of co-operation required during World War Two- see quotation below.



Joseph Parkinson manufactured Parkson Mills and Sunderland gear cutting machines. Perhaps the vices were a smaller sideline? Their address was "J. Parkinson & Son Ltd, Canal Iron Works, Shipley, West Yorkshire". Another address was "Cromwell Rd Shipley."

The company was taken over by Broadbent Stanley, who today manufacture industrial lathes and specialise in equipment for the natural gas industry in Britain.

The following quotation provides some insight to J. Parkinson and Son in the late 1930's:

"As to the demise of Parkinson there is a comment in Scott Landis's Workbench Book that in 1942 the Ministry of Supply instructed C & J Hampton (Record Tools) to assist F. Paramore and Sons, a Rotherham cast-iron grate maker and founders, in setting up a vice manufacturing production facility in order that there would be more than one source of mechanic's and woodworker's vices which were deemed essential to the war effort. I have found a couple of references to this elsewhere so it is certainly safe to say that if you have a Parkinson vice it is at least 60 years old." (www.ukworkshop.co.uk -2004)

Presumably, because of their heavy machinery production Parkinson's were an important supplier to the war effort; it took precedence over smaller components such as vices, hence the Hampton/Paramore involvement.

It is reasonable then to conclude that Parkinson vices were made between 1884 and World War Two, and also probably during the war.

The box of a Small brass Parkinson's vice advertised for sale in 2008 states that the Parkinson's Patent Perfect Vice was the first vice to combine successfully the quick grip with unlimited cramping movement "*though often challenged it remains unbeaten*".

The above information is second or third hand – from www.ukworkshop.co.uk www.practicalmachinist.com www.worthpoint.com/worthopedia/mini-vice-antique-j-parkinson-son-the-perfect. (This site has a photo)

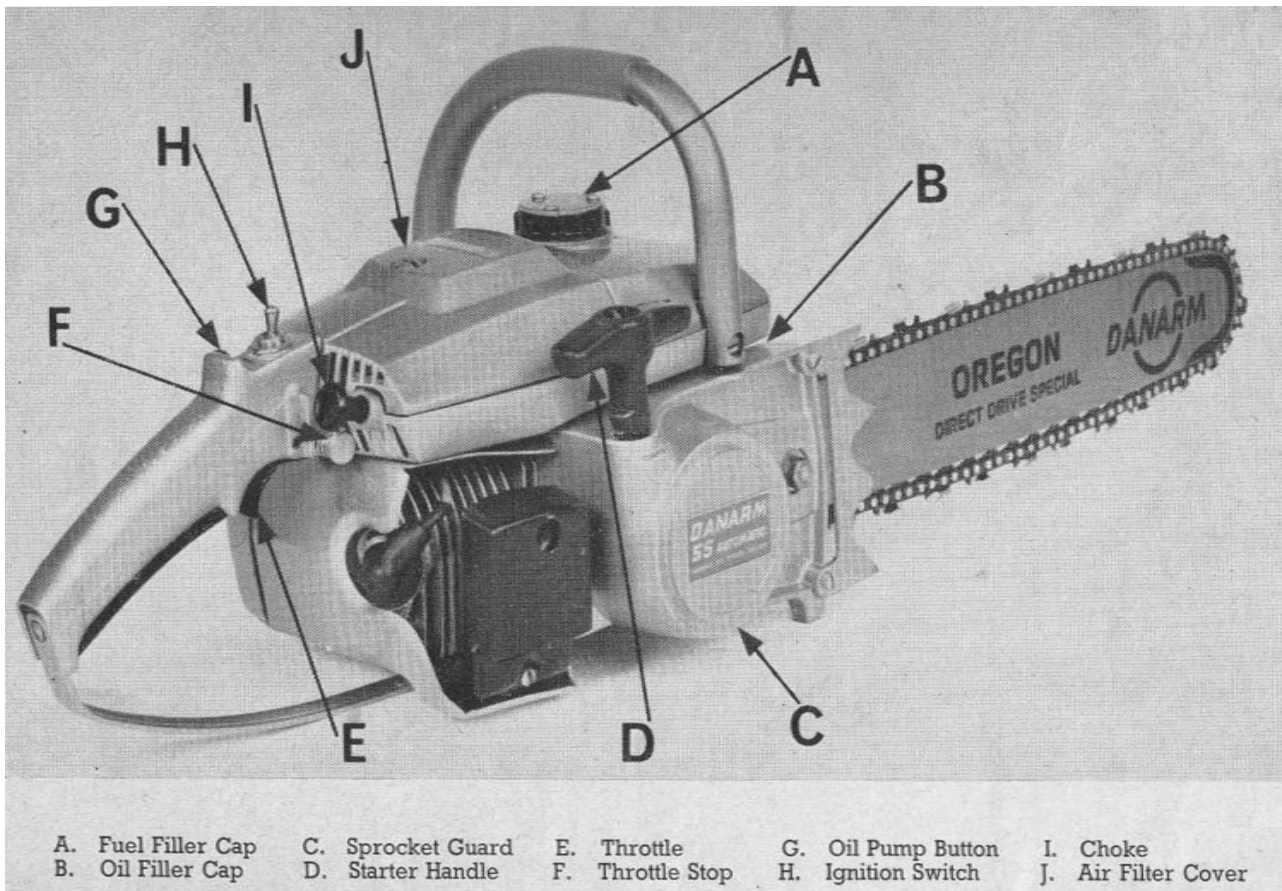
The colours in this article are not original



OTHER QUICK ACTION VICES

Text books and Tool Catalogues from about 1890 – 1900 have a few vague illustrations of other instantaneous grip vices. Mathieson's 1899 Catalogue has *Lightening Vices*. Judging by the illustrations these vices are cruder than *Parkinson's Patent Perfect Vice*. Are these vices copies or different patents?

1966 Chainsaw



DANARM 55 Automatic Chain Saw Instruction Book 1st August 1966

Danarm Chain Saws were manufactured in Gloucestershire England.
Danarm Pty Ltd 5 Larkin Street Camperdown NSW sold Danarm saws.

The illustration on the cover of NEWS 133 is from *Chain Saw Safety*.
The booklet was published and distributed by Danarm Pty Ltd.

Traditional Paints

This link may be of interest to anyone interested in using traditional paints.

<http://www.oldworldpaints.com.au/html/FAQ.html>

Goodlass Wall & Co. Pty. Ltd.
Advertisement in *How To Build and Equip The Home Workshop*
Alex Smith Melbourne 1960?

Matt Pryor



Sharpening Small Blades with Fat Fingers

Peter Smith

I have most of the blades that came with the Stanley 55 and they all need sharpening. With the blades being relatively small my hand gets stiff from holding the blade flat on the sharpening surface and occasionally I manage to wear away my finger-tips.



The jig I made has evolved into its current form and the only things I needed to get were two rare earth magnets and some scrap wood.

By experimenting I reduced the length to 120mm, the width and height to 25mm and rounded the top ends to make the jig a comfortable fit for my hand.

I glued a piece of timber on the bottom to stop the blade sliding backwards. It is about 1mm less than the thickness of the blades and I used *Purbond* glue to make it water, white spirit and oil proof. Because the magnets are so strong I glued and wedged them in place. To get the blades off I slide them to the side.

The only drawback is that the centre of gravity is higher and I need to make sure I don't roll the blade during use. I do the honing by hand.

You can see from the high spots in the photo that the back of the blades are not flat. They need to be close to flat to sit properly in the 55.



MEMBER'S TIPS AND DODGES

At every TTTG Workshop at least a couple of good ideas get an airing.

Occasionally some *well dodgy* methods are discussed but this is rare.

Peter's jig for holding small blades surfaced at a TTTG Workshop.

Many TTTG members have similar simple but effective dodges and tips.

Send your Dodges and Tips to the Editor

Ripsnorter Portable Saw

The Ripsnorter and Portable Electric Saws

Clynt Sheehy

On page 21 of the December 2006 TTTG Newsletter are details and a picture of an American portable electric saw manufactured in 1934.

You will notice that the motor is on the right hand side of the blade with its axis parallel to the face of the blade. This type of saw is known as a *worm-drive saw* and is still commonly used by American framing carpenters because (for a right-handed carpenter) it is easier to see the cut line from the left and, at heights, the user does not have to lean out over the edge of the roof to line up the blade.

I believe that, whether you are on the roof or not, a portable electric saw's motor (for a right-handed person) should be on the right side of the blade for ease of viewing the cut line with the waste to the right of the cut. In fact, a couple of years ago, I saw such a saw in the Left-Handed Shop when it was located in The Rocks.

It is interesting to note that the latest batch of cordless saws have their motors located on the right of the blade (page 18 November/December 2006 Australian Woodworker).

Avid readers of *The Ledger* will recall in February 2007 *NEWS* I suggested right-handed woodworkers might prefer to use a left-hander's portable circular saw (and left-handers, a usual circular saw with the motor on the left hand side). Currently there is available a laser-guided GMC 185 mm left-handed saw. Some of the benefits of a "left hand" saw are: (1) you can see the cut line without leaning over the saw motor; (2) you can cut to length roof overhangs without having to lean out into space; (3) [and to my mind the best benefit] a guide baton clamped to the board to be cut will not foul the underside of the saw motor.

I bought one of these left-hand conventional circular saws; they're good because you can cramp a baton to a plank as a guide to run the base of the saw against without fouling the motor as you would with a right-hander's saw.

THE TRADITIONAL TOOLS GROUP and POWER TOOLS

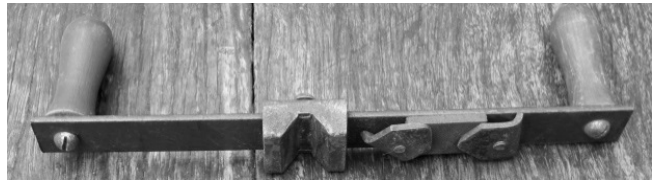
TTTG is interested in all tools. There are other groups who exclude power tools. Interestingly the association with a "hand tools only" philosophy does not offer classes teaching how to use traditional hand tools or publish much on tool use.

TTTG is not a collectors club. Many TTTG members use old tools and machines.

Judging by the reaction at the 2013 Sydney Wood Show there is interest in both old power tools and old hand tools. *People seem to want to learn real skills.*

Strange Tools

I was given this by a friend who found it in his father's garage. I believe that it is for sharpening the blades of a push lawn mower. I have been known to be wrong!!



Cliff King

Editor

Cliff is correct, these devices worked well! The Editor welcomes any strange tools for inclusion in future editions of News.



Linley's Patent Treble Bellows

LINLEY'S
TREBLE
both Circular & Long Shape.
PATENT
BELLOWS.
for Forges Anchor-Smiths Foundries Smiths &c.
(WARRANTED.)

These Bellows produce double the blast of the common kind, and take up no more room. They possess the peculiar advantage of producing the same quantity of air when the rockstaff is rising up as when it is falling; they will support a wider pipe, thereby causing a constant, steady and powerful blast into the fire, calculated to bring iron or steel into a state of fusion without turning it. These Bellows are made in a substantial manner, and of good materials, at the Manufactory.

Wicker, Sheffield.

Sheffield Directory and Guide 1828

Linley's bellows appear strange to modern eyes but were no doubt well received by blacksmiths in 1828. They were probably ideal for export to colonies such as New South Wales.

Old Plane Parts

On Hans Brunner's website there is a link to Stanley Parts. The following is an extract from this site.

If you are looking for spare parts for old planes my advice is, *before you grow desperate enough to buy from Ali Baba.... do your homework and compare.*

Good reproduction parts are available from St James Bay Tool Co. This eBay USA seller is my favourite parts supplier with a grip on reality, New Hampshire Plane Parts.

If you search plane parts you'll find scores more sellers. I sell the odd part myself on eBay Australia with the user name *underthedirt*

If you need a few screws or bolts for bench planes, i.e. frog screws, handle bolts and screws, frog adjuster screws etc.... I might be able to help you out. I usually charge \$1 for a screw or bolt plus postage of \$1.20 - \$3.00 in Australia or around \$6 overseas. This option is only available for parts with a total weight under 500 grams and not thicker than 20mm as they can be sent as a large letter. For any other parts like frogs, brass adjuster screw etc. postage up to 500 grams is \$7 Australia wide or \$14 over 500 grams to 3kg.

I won't list individual parts any more - other than on eBay.au

If you are restoring a number 3-7 plane you should contemplate a Sunday outing to a flea market.

Given the ridiculous prices some dealers want for their parts plus shipping it might be a lot cheaper to simply buy another parts plane to complete the one you really like. There is one Australian site who sells a lot of Stanley parts but their prices are way too high for me. You should have no problems finding most parts for Stanley planes on eBay USA for less

Making parts your self

It is not simple to find taps and dies that match the ones Stanley used. I could not find any Stanley production reports but Record published theirs and because they copied everything Stanley down to almost the last detail. I'm pretty confident all these sizes are correct for Stanley planes.

Hans then has a table of Stanley screw thread sizes. John Bates has studied these sizes and has compiled a simple to use guide to Stanley screw threads.

John Bates comments

Taps and dies can typically be found with a little on-line effort, especially the US number and fractional machine screw sizes.

For example:

- 5/16" 18tpi BSW is readily available in Australia
- 7/32"-24 NS; #12-20 NS; #12-24 NS; #14-24 NS and 9/32"-24 NS and 1/4"-24 taps (and most dies) are available from Victor Machinery Exchange, USA (www.victornet.com)

Stanley/Record Threads

John Bates

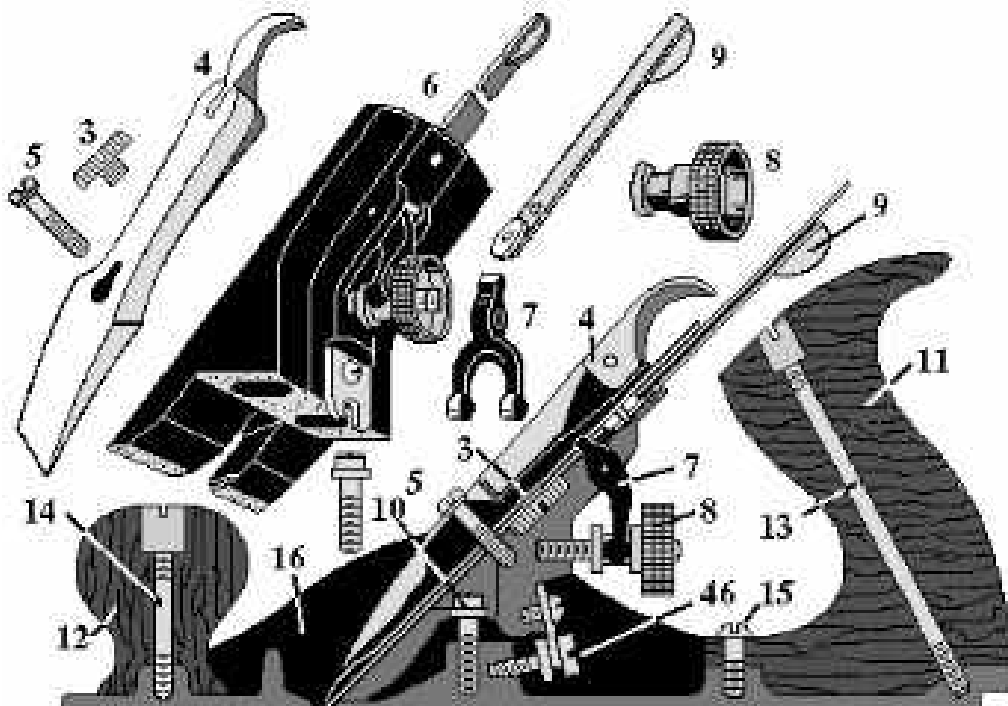
- Part 3 Cap Screw:
5/16"-18 BSW or 5/16"-18 UNC
- Part 10 Frog Screw:
#12-20 NS
- Part 14 Knob Bolt & Nut:
#12-20 NS
- Part 13 Handle (Tote) Bolt & Nut:
#12-20 NS
- Screw for Frog Adjust Plate:
#12-24 UNC or 7/32"-24 NS or
7/32"-24 BSW
- Frog Adjusting Screw:
1/4"-24 NS 60 degree on Record and
#14-24 NS or 15/64"-24 NS 60
degree on Stanley
- Part 8 Adjusting Nut:
9/32"-24 NS (LH) 60 degree
- Part 5 Lever Cap Screw:
9/32"-24 NS 60 degree

TTTG has published a comprehensive look at screw threads in general and Stanley threads in particular. The monograph was written by TTTG Committee Member John Bates and is in two parts. Unfortunately it is no longer in print however, both parts are published at the TTTG website in pdf format where they can be read or downloaded as desired. Visit tttg.org.au

PART No.	PART NAME
#3	Cap Screw
#4	Lever Cap
#5	Lever Cap Screw
#6	Frog Complete
#7	"Y" Adjusting Lever
#8	Adjusting Nut
#9	Lateral Adjusting Lever
#10	Frog Screw
#11	Plane Handle (Tote)
#12	Plane Knob
#13	Handle (Tote) Bolt and Nut
#14	Knob Bolt and Nut
#15	Plane Handle (Tote) Screw
#16	Plane Bottom
#46	Frog Adjusting Screw

Diagram & Table sourced from:

<http://www.supertool.com/StanleyBG/stan1.htm>



Bush Regeneration Menai

BVanLuyt

"So what is the traditional tool for a Bush Regenerator I hear you ask? Bush Regeneration hasn't been around that long so there isn't much of a tradition but the tools we use would be familiar to most TTTG members, a knife for weeding, a folding pruning saw, often Japanese style with a pull blade and a one cast aluminium trowel for digging those bulbous weeds. Heavier tools include a small pick for weeding/ planting, a bush saw for big woody weeds and loppers for taking down Lantana and similar noxious targets.

Why am I telling you this?

I am a Bushcare Officer for Sutherland Shire Council and a Traditional Tools Group member. Sometimes these two seemingly mutually exclusive things combine. In 2012 we ran an event at Menai, a suburb in the Sutherland Shire, south of Sydney, to promote an awareness of Bushcare and the Traditional Tools Group. It was a cracker of a day and Jim's display of axes, froes and other forestry tools had all the blokes talking.

In Bushcare we look after the few remnants of natural areas around Sydney surviving despite European settlement and the massive urban explosion after WW2. A lot of bushland was cleared back then but it wasn't just development that caused this loss of bushland.

Before the houses came the farms.

Before the farms the timber getters cut through the landscape.

Though Sydney doesn't have the timber getting history of places like Wauchope or Buladelah up north or the forests behind Bega and Eden to the south it is surprising just how much useable timber was cut from this region before urban sprawl covered the Sydney region.

Menai had a rich component of Sydney Turpentine Ironbark Forest (also known as STIF). This is now listed as an Endangered Ecological Community. It is suggested that there may be less than 0.5% remaining of what was here before whitefellas arrived. The two main indicative species of STIF are Turpentine (*Syncarpia glomulifera*) and Grey Ironbark (*Eucalyptus paniculata*). Both trees were heavily logged for their timber. Early Australian botanist J.H. Maiden described Grey Ironbark as "King of the Hardwoods (Forest Flora of New South Wales Vol.1). It was felled for bridge construction, railway sleepers, wagon and carriage construction and large beams in buildings.

Turpentine was found to be highly resistant to attack by salt-water worms so was used extensively in wharf construction and in boat building. Another species found in STIF is *Allocasuarina torulosa* or Forest Oak. It is one of genus of trees known as She-oaks. It is a medium sized tree with weeping foliage. The leaves look like pine

needles. This tree was heavily cut for a number of uses. It was highly prized as timber for shingles or shakes as it split well. It was also cut for firewood.

In the bush at Menai one can find stumps of huge trees cut many years ago, and only stumps as the logs were carted away and sawn up. STIF occurs at Menai and it was also found at Kirrawee, Gymea, Miranda, and Heathcote. Kirrawee, Miranda and Heathcote all had brick pits. STIF grows on shale soils with a lot of clay under them. The timber was cut, then the clay dug and residential areas followed. In Miranda a great big shopping centre was built. It is no wonder that Sydney Turpentine Ironbark Forest is an Endangered Ecological Community.

As well as Turpentine and Ironbark other useful trees grew around here and were cut for their timber. The well-known tree Blackbutt (*Eucalyptus piliularis*) grows in many gullies around the Sutherland Shire and was cut in small quantities for construction. The legendary Red Cedar was once prolific in the deep rainforest valleys of what is now The Royal National Park until it was all but cut out toward the end of the 19thC. Other timbers such as Coachwood (*Ceratopetalum apetalum*) Sassafras (*Doryphora sassafras*) were also harvested.

Local historian Alf Midgely wrote of timber being cut around Menai as

early as 1823 and timber getting was an important industry in the Woronora Valley. He writes of the local timber getters cutting logs, hauling them by bullock dray before shutting down into the Woronora River where they were rafted together and floated out onto the Georges River and thence to their destination.

Timber was felled for wheelwrights, for fuel for bakers' ovens. In 1921 a Mr Batchelor was contracted by Sutherland Shire Council to provide 128 fence posts from a mix of Turpentine, Stringybark and Bloodwood for 3 pence a post. *H This was hard work for little money and all done with traditional tools.*

Though timber cutting continued into the 1930s in the Sutherland Shire it was all but finished when the chainsaw appeared in the late 1940s replacing axe and cross cut.

My colleagues and I, and the volunteers that work with us are following in the footsteps of these old timber cutters, and when I trudge up a bush valley side hill with little more than a bag of weeds and tool belt or try to cut down, with some difficulty, a soft green privet I marvel at the strength and endurance of the men from only a couple of generations past. Only their stories remain but with the assistance of TTTG those stories can be better understood through the collections of forestry tools in the possession of some of the TTTG's members.

Around the Websites

Tom Marinov

-The Association of Pole-lathe Turners & Greenwood Workers (United Kingdom)
www.bodgers.org.uk

This group promotes Greenwood working and Pole Lathes in general. It's a little social, but the group also sponsors a Bursary to develop young craftspeople.

Bodgers has a very useful and detailed plans section that details a Pole lathe design and has a couple of crucial design criteria of note. There is a Bodger's Muddle, which left me confused, but all became clear. It's a double-opposed bow to replace the spring pole required usually. Some very detailed thought has gone into it.

The associated links on the site make for some interesting threads, following them through, www.robin-wood.co.uk has some video of Robin in action turning a bowl on a foot powered lathe as well as some general instruction. The last link has a challenge "Man versus machine" "who will be the quickest?"

Both sites are worth a bit of a look, not terribly professional, but great content and the little gems that pop up are great.

-Anvil Fire www.anvilfire.com
Anvil fire funnily enough, dedicated to Blacksmithing!

The site may not be the most best, but seems to have many resources. Tucked in the top line there is a little link "Getting started" It has a brief history and links to many resources. It starts with "blacksmithing is all of the metalworking trades in one" and the emphasis is on making your own tools. The homemade hacksaw is a beauty and combines design and function with a style of many years ago. The side bar has quite a few links, and includes a significant Plans section that is useful making a forge from a Brake Drum, forge hoods etc. Springs for power Hammers, the section on Armour is quite interesting and includes sword making. The site links to ABANA www.abana.org, artists & blacksmiths association.

-Moroccan Bow lathe
www.youtube.com/watch?v=wnv0DAR_gWA or search the title in *youtube*. This young wood turner Mostopher Dnouch can be found plying his trade in the medina of old Marrakech. With just one tool, a skew chisel, he turns a chess piece on a bow lathe in seven minutes. This would have been a familiar sight in ancient Greece or the Pharaoh's Egypt

Awesome piece of work, the Skew work is sharp and dextrous, and I am not sure I could turn one out as fast on a machine lathe. There's one for a TTTG workshop. Bow lathes! *I am not sure how to get a friction polish finish on a bow lathe.*

**The Project Gutenberg
EBook of Woodworking
Tools 1600-1900
Peter C Welsh**

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Woodworking Tools 1600-1900
Peter C Welsh
Release date: November 12, 2008
[EBook #27238]
ISO-8859-1

Peter Welsh's ebook is an excellent overview of the development of hand tools used by woodworkers between 1600 and 1800. The "new" illustrations are the strength of the publication. There are some real gems as demonstrated by the drawing reproduced below.

The Index of Fossil-Fuel-Friendly Woodworking Knowledge

Cian Perez has done a fabulous job of gathering up, and in some cases finding a home for, a wealth of knowledge and opinion on hand tool woodworking. Expect to spend a long time looking at the links.
www.cianperez.com



From Chris Vesper

A Google search will quickly find Chris Vesper's website and I'm sure most readers already know Chris Vesper's site.

Chris is interested in traditional tools and makes excellent high quality hand tools. The illustration below is from Chris Vesper's site.



TTTG REVIEWS

The editor reviews any magazine articles of possible interest to readers. *NEWS* does not regularly review the publications of other associations.

The editor reads the journals published by TATHS and HTPAA. However the editor doesn't have the time to review these journals! Writing and laying out *NEWS* is a time consuming commitment. The sub editor has enough to do getting *NEWS* printed to write reviews.

REVIEWERS WANTED

For NEWS to publish regular reviews the editor needs authors!

If what you read interests you it may also appeal to a TTTG member.

Send your reviews to the editor. Unformatted word document preferred.

Take it Easy

A TTTG Workshop Story

A few years back the TTTG Workshops were held in a High School workshop. At one of the workshops I glue a bottle of glue to a TTTG member, Peter Smith.

I wasn't being generous as the glue was turning purple and was well passed the use by date. The glue was AV180, at the time the best of the new cross linked PVA glues.

I remember saying "it seems to work". Peter accepted the TTTG challenge "to give it a go".

Below is Peter's report:

Test of Suspect Yellow Glue

The Yellow glue sample was thought to be going off and perhaps separating. The tests I completed are neither scientific nor thorough.

Since I did not get a control sample the tests focused on the glue "as it is" rather than "how it should be".

The glue was tested unstirred and after stirring. The glued wood was glued and after 5 days I tried to split the joint.

Both unstirred and stirred gave the same results – the wood split along the grain rather than along the glue joint. A test using MDF also did not split along the join.

The glue is quite runny and the squeeze out dries rubbery making clean up a pain. Is this a "feature" of the glue? A scraper produced marginally better results than sandpaper but a well fettled plane worked a treat by slicing a thin shaving and cutting through the glue. The glue remains bright yellow when dry. Other yellow glues I have used have, by comparison, been more off-white, cream or beige and dried hard and clear. Surprisingly, the glue doesn't glow in the dark!

After the glue-ups I strained the glue through a paint strainer and the few lumps were glue coated saw dust and some crunchy bits.

My conclusion is that the glue works but I will use the rest of the glue for one off jigs and mock-ups.

Thanks for glue,

Peter Smith

Editor's comment

The editor admits he was totally irresponsible in giving this stale glue to a paying TTTG Workshop participant.

If anything stands out from the test it is the fact that even with this glue the glue line was stronger than the wood. Any suitable glue used correctly will produce strong joints. The joints make fit!

My current recommended glues are Pearl Glue and Titebond!

Talking of Glues

Sharp tools produce optimal surfaces for gluing. Learn how to use the tools and stop wasting money on *super strong* glues.

TTTG Tool Collection

When TTTG secures a home base it will be possible to organise the TTTG Tool Collection and Library.

TTTG aims to preserve traditional technology. This involves saving old tools and teaching old skills. Traditional hand and machine skills are relevant in this digital age. It may be possible to “print” a hand gun but most materials have to be worked by machine and hand tools. The continuing demand for quality tools and for instruction in the use of hand tools is evidence of the relevance of old methods.

TTTG will be setting up workshop areas for wood and metal working.

There will need to be a small area for basic woodworking machinery but the main workshops will be equipped with traditional benches.

The metal working area will also need an area for basic machines and a workshop equipped with traditional benches.

Suitable space will also be needed for a basic Blacksmith’s shop. Hopefully we can find room for a small power hammer.

What machines will be need?

For woodworking a 14” Bandsaw, a small circular saw, a drop and slide saw, pedestal drill and lathe will be adequate. The essential machine is an 8” Grinder.

For metal working a centre lathe, bench drill and power hacksaw.

The workshop tools

TTTG has the basis of a communal workshop tool kit. Accumulating the tools for twelve woodworking benches and six metal working benches is not an unrealistic task.

The Museum Tools

TTTG’s ultimate aim is to have a working museum. Of course some tools would not be suitable for use.

At present many TTTG tools are in storage. This is a brief summary;

Tool Chests

-Nineteenth Century
Cabinet Makers’ Tool Chest
(Excellent condition)

-Nineteenth Century
Joiners’ Tool Chest
(Poor Condition)

-1930’s NSW Railways
Joiners’ Tool Chest
(Good Condition)

Tool Boxes

-1930’s NSW Railways
Pattern Maker’s Tool Box
(Good Condition, some tools)

-1930’s
Carpenters Tool Box
(Good Condition)

The Tools

A good selection of hand saws. Many moulding and bench planes, ploughs and fillisters. Range of chisels, gauges, and other tools.
Enough to start filling a workshop.

Ranting and Raving

Hand-Stitched

This is another one of those new terms to have suddenly appeared in print. I've used tools for most of my life and read more than a few books but *Hand-Stitched* has only caught my attention recently. Maybe I have a poor vocabulary.

Over a hundred years ago the battle between *hand cut* and *machine cut* files was ended with the perfection of file cutting machinery. The last of the hand file cutters gradually died out, often assisted by lead poisoning and other occupational diseases.

The latest appearance of *Hand-Stitched* is an article in Popular Woodworking June 2013 by Robert W Lang titled *Hand-Stitched Rasps*.

This is an excellent discussion on the use of rasps and I recommend it to all serious woodworkers. The author provides details of all the current makers of high quality *hand cut* rasps.

These rasps, being *Hand-Stitched*, are very expensive. Cost aside the range available today is far more limited than in the days when exploited out-workers *hand cut* files and rasps for a pittance.

After reading Robert W Lang's article you may feel the need to get some quality rasps so I'm offering a low cost way to get the best quality rasps without going into debt.

Buy old rasps

Old rasps and files are plentiful. Few people want them. Some old rasps and files are *hand cut* but even ones made fairly recently are high quality. The two dollar shop files sold today are rubbish but even files made in India thirty years ago are good files. Wiltshire made excellent files and rasps in Australia until relatively recently.

What do I buy?

Look for the brand on the file or rasp. The "gold standard" ones are Stubbs, Nicholson, Wiltshire and numerous others. Look also for the words "cast steel", "warranted", "made in USA" and "Sheffield". Frankly it is hard to lose money when buying old files and rasps.

How much?

The most I would pay for a large old rasp is \$5. Buying a handful of old files or rasps, is the cheapest.

What next?

I read a recent article on restoring rasps but I'm not dignifying it with a review in *NEWS*. The method was to clean and polish the rasp with a wire buff. Nice and shiny! Files and rasps can be easily sharpened.

All you need is a plastic bucket and Citric Acid or cleaning vinegar. Scrape off any paint or putty and pick out any clogged filings. Unless the teeth are missing the rasp will be better than new *Hand-Stitched*. Sometimes cheaper is better.



**The
2013-
Working
With
Wood
Show**

