

December 2014

TTTG Inc.

www.tttg.org.au

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Cover

Safety Poster 1941

Next Meeting

Tuesday 9 December 2014
Annie Wyatt Room
National Trust Centre
Observatory Hill Sydney

Rare Tools

TTTG's Tool Collection

A display of a selection of tools from the TTTG Tool Collection. The presenter will discuss the tools on display, giving a brief history of each tool and an account of how the tools came into the collection. Afterwards a Bob Cosman DVD on plane tuning will be shown.

Auction

The Meeting will conclude with a member's auction.

As usual there will be many bargains at low prices!

The last auction of 2014 will see many items under the hammer.

Auction Rules

The tools to be auctioned will be under cover before the auction.

2015 TTTG Fees

Membership	\$40
Workshops	\$40
Tool Sales	\$5
Meetings	\$5

2015 TTTG Workshop Fees

*For fifteen years the cost of TTTG Workshops has not risen.
In fifteen years the cost of everything else has risen.*

*In 2015 the cost of TTTG Workshops will change.
Everyone will pay the same to attend a TTTG Workshop.*

The cost isn't the only change to TTTG Workshops in 2015.

In 2015 TTTG Workshops offer:

More workshops

Quality Venue with refreshments

Chances to buy old and new tools

Two ways to pay

How Much?

Each TTTG Workshop will cost \$40

How to enrol in a TTTG Workshop

Three ways to enrol

www.tttg.org.au

www.macquarie.nsw.edu.au

Pay on the day

Two ways to pay

www.macquarie.nsw.edu.au

Pay on the day

Reward for TTTG members

*TTTG members who attend two TTTG workshops can claim
a 25% refund from the cost of the third workshop.*

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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Enquires

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www.tttg.org.au

NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 9 December 2014

National Trust Centre
Observatory Hill Sydney

Rare Tools TTTG's Tool Collection

DVD of plane tuning

Entry \$5 'Doors open at 7pm'

Donations to TTTG

The Traditional Tools Group accepts donations of old tools and machinery.

TTTG does not offer a "*clear out everything in the garage*" service.
TTTG cannot guarantee to pick up donated tools immediately.

Bequests to TTTG

What will happen to your tools? Consider leaving your collection to TTTG.

UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES WILL TTTG OFFER VALUATIONS OF TOOLS

Next Meeting

Tuesday 9 December 2014
Annie Wyatt Room
National Trust Centre
Observatory Hill Sydney

Rare Tools

TTTG's Tool Collection

A display of a selection of tools from the TTTG Tool Collection

The presenter will discuss the tools on display, giving a brief history of each tool and an account of how the tools came into the collection.

More tools from the collection will be on display at the

End of Year Tool Swap

Sunday 14 December 2014

Also: A Bob Cosman DVD "Plane Tuning" will be shown

The Auction

More donations rolling in!
More bargain price tools snapped up by the tool hungry audience.
Good and also ran user tools will be under the auctioneers' hammer.

Last Meeting

Tuesday 14 October 2014

Blacksmithing DVD

Forging a Custom Hinge

The audience enjoyed this DVD and there was a lively discussion of the contents after the showing.

The consensus was the audience wanted to see another DVD from this Popular Woodworking series. This series of DVDs are available from Jim Davey Tools.

Display of

Chinese Woodworking Tools

From Fred Murrell's Collection

The tools generated strong interest, speculation and discussion.

TTTG members are keen to see more from Fred's extensive tool collection in 2015.

The Auction

A good selection of user tools and related items were all sold at fair prices for vendors and buyers.

The Traditional Tools Group Inc. Tool Collection & Library

The TTTG Tool Collection is being gradually moved to Brush Farm House. The Library collection also is being gradually moved to Brush Farm House.

Eventually the Tools and Library will be open to TTTG members.

Volunteers Wanted

TTTG needs volunteers to catalogue the Tool Collection and the Library.

Contact the TTTG Librarian if you can help

The Ledger

Clynt Sheehy

Sydney Tool Sale

22 February 2015

New Members

Mark Kozanic	M737
John Blunt	M738
Tanya Peck	M739
Philip Harley	M740
Peter Jackson	M741
Anthony Montague	M742
Michael Pender	M743

Would those who would like to rent tables at please let me know how many tables they want to hire and send me their \$40 per table.

Details of the sale are on page 35.

You can please call me on

(02) 9416 7134

or E-mail

treasurer@tttg.org.au

Tool Swap and Social Day

at Brush Farm House

“Members only tool swap day”

14 December from 9:30am

An opportunity for members to explore Brush Farm House and to swap tools

See traditional trades in action

Green Wood Turning

Blacksmithing and Joinery

The Tool Swap will be in Forster Hall

Members and friends \$5

Join TTTG for only \$40

2015 TTTG Workshops

at Brush Farm House

In 2015 TTTG will offer “real skills” workshops in Forster Hall

Planes Saws Chisels Dovetailing and more!

Also in 2015 a series of Trade Heritage Workshops

Carpentry Joinery Bricklaying Stone Masonry Glazing

New TTTG Events in 2015

Traditional Trades Fair

Australian Tool Makers’ Fair

Expressions of interest and sponsorship are open for the 2015 events

The Traditional Tools Group Events in 2015

The Sydney Timber and Working With Wood Show

TTTG will have a stand and also TTTG will be demonstrating “real skills”

Heritage Week Willandra and St Anne’s Church Ryde

TTTG will have a display of “The Tools that built Ryde”

TTTG will be demonstrating traditional trade skills.

Granny Smith Festival Ryde

TTTG will be demonstrating traditional trade skills.

Proposed events at Brush Farm House Eastwood

Ryde Council wants to see more community involvement with Brush Farm House and the properties extensive grounds.

TTTG is planning the following weekend events:

Heritage Trades and Tools Conference

This will be an opportunity for local makers of hand tools to display tools and for vendors of quality tools to give buyers a “try and buy” opportunity.

There will be demonstrations of traditional trades in the grounds.

Demonstrations of traditional joinery, green wood turning and blacksmithing

Heritage Trades Skills Open Days

Brush Farm House has examples of joinery from the 1820s to the 1940s. This makes Brush Farm House an ideal venue to explore old trade skills.

There will be demonstrations of traditional trades in the grounds.

Demonstrations of traditional joinery, green wood turning and blacksmithing

Expressions of interest are open for the proposed events.

Brush Farm House provides a high profile venue for these proposed events. For participants the cost will be far lower than other Sydney venues.

Brush Farm House has excellent onsite catering facilities.

Brush Farm House has large grounds and ample free parking.

Brush Farm House is centrally located and close to Sydney and Parramatta.

End of Year Tool Swap

“Members only Day”

Sunday 14 December 2014

\$5 Entry

Fine Woodworking Skills

Basic skills for quality work

Saturday 28 February 2015

Sharpening Woodworking Tools

Planes, Chisels, saws and other tools

Sunday 8 March 2015

Making Woodworking Joints

The joints to use and how to make them

Sunday 22 March 2015

Workshop Venue

Brush Farm House Forster Hall

19 Lawson Street Eastwood

Light refreshments but bring your lunch

Leather shoes and suitable clothing

9am Sign In

9.15am Start

Tools on sale

All TTTG workshops cost \$40

Enrol online www.macquarie.nsw.edu.au

Or Pay on the Day

Work Health and Safety

The Traditional Tools Group Inc. supports Work Health and Safety laws.

Participants at TTTG workshops must wear safe clothing and footwear.

At the start of all TTTG workshops the participants are given a site induction where they are made aware of TTTG's expectations and also warned about any possible potential hazards on the site.

The *Brush Farm House* workshops are held in **Forster Hall**
Brush Farm House 19 Lawson Street Eastwood

Forster Hall is a large WHS compliant community hall

Correspondence

Men's Sheds

Both the August and October issues contained somewhat derogatory comments on the failure of Men's Shed's in general to respect heritage. Thankfully Odd Kristensen has offered input into the discussion that counters some of the outrageous and wildly incorrect statements therein.

For example;

"In the majority of Men's Sheds the country's heritage is being trashed"
"Old joinery broken up for timber and old tools abused,"

"Most Men's Sheds are threats to the nation's heritage".

Having been an inaugural member of, and the President of a Shed for the whole of its eight years existence, I've never seen or experienced anything but sympathetic treatment of donated tools, equipment or material. Of the thirty three (very mature) active members there are: two boilermakers, three fitter machinists, an electrician, a painter, a plumber, a Telstra technician, an antique restorer and a blacksmith. Other members have formally acquired skills in Leathercraft, vehicle and farm machinery restoration and forestry/timber management.

That is, about fifty percent who are retired tradesmen or who have formal qualification in skills and crafts applicable to our interests

and who are well experienced in safety needs and requirements.

I certainly can't speak for all Sheds. Maybe, there are sheds that lack sufficient members with the skills and experience to manage the organisation with satisfactory levels of knowledge of duty of care, competence and heritage sympathy. But it's unfair to generalize, particularly when so little experience of Men's Sheds is evident.

Charles Watson OAM
President – Dungog Menshed
Member of TTTG Inc.

Charles,

My experience with several Men's Sheds in Sydney is the basis of my comments. There are several excellent Men's Sheds but there are also some Men's Sheds with serious issues. Work Health and Safety laws cannot be ignored. I am supportive of Men's Sheds and see them catering to a genuine need, however safety and heritage concerns should be addressed. The comments I made were not meant to be outrageous, rather, I hope they were responsible criticism based on my observations of several Men's Sheds.

Bob Crosbie

New Feature

In the Shed

The editor wants your Men's Shed stories for publication in NEWS.

TRADITIONAL GREEN WOODWORKING

Earlier this year I came across a Letter to the Editor bemoaning the fact that there was no one in Australia, to the writer's knowledge, actively involved in green woodworking. I am taking this opportunity to introduce myself with a brief chairmaking history covering the last 22 years.

I started elementary chairmaking in the late 1980's after a literal tree change leaving my career as an advertising photographer and moving from Balmain in Sydney to a remote community in the Upper Hunter Valley.

I built my first pole lathe in 1990 and by 1993 I was producing what I considered to be more than acceptable Windsor chairs. In 1994 my business, Rarechairs, was born and I ran my first courses at the Moonan workshop.

20 years later, the courses are still running.

In the interim, I have been lucky enough to have been visiting artist at the ANU Arts Faculty School of Wood and Furniture Design for 7 years as well as tutor and artist in residence at Sturt School of Wood in Mittagong.

Many of you may have met me on my stand at the Sydney Woodworking Show over the years

To date I have built over 450 Windsor and ladderback chairs using traditional green woodworking techniques, and through my teaching, I estimate there are approximately another 1,200 out there.

If you would like to know more, come and see me at my working demonstration at –

**Brush Farm House, EASTWOOD
on Sunday 14th December.**

I look forward to seeing you there.

Howard Archbold
Chairmaker
www.rarechairs.com.au

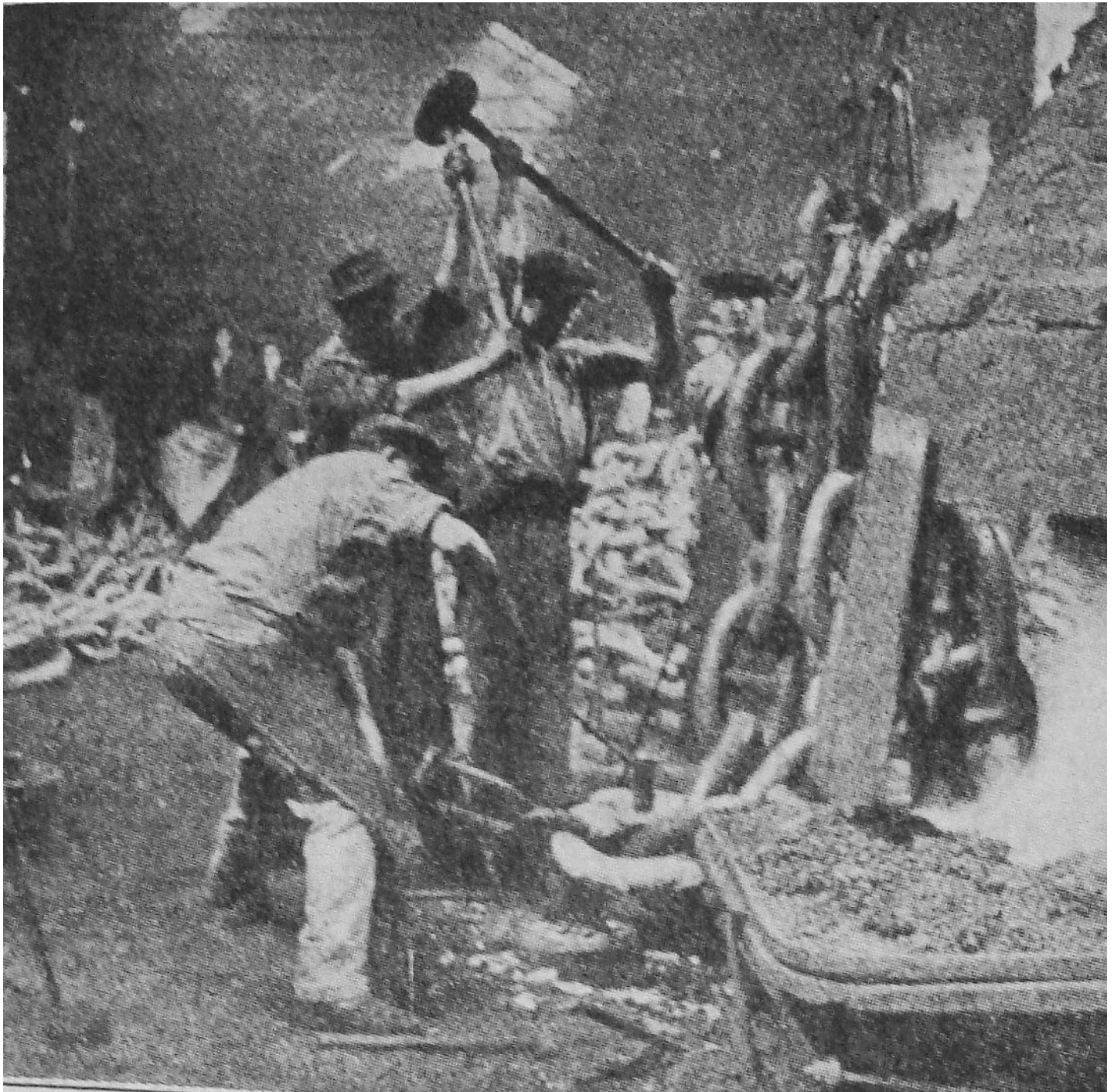


Two Handled Hammer

*Forge welding anchor chains
links for the Dreadnought*

*Australasian Coachbuilder and
Wheelwright August 15 1917*

Courtesy Mike Hendrikson



Stanley Knife Blades

Bob Crosbie

Among a recent donation to TTTG was a *Made in Australia* Stanley 299E Knife. With the knife were four old packets of knife blades.

Inside the 299E body the types of knife knives are listed: -

No. 1991 Regular

No. 1992 Heavy Duty

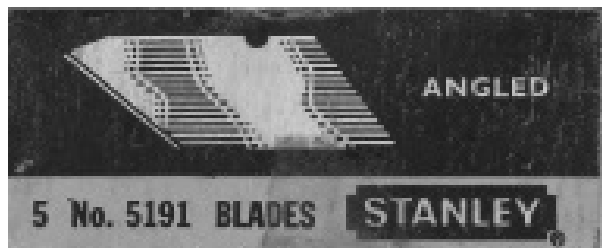
No. 1996 Hook

No. 5192 Concave

No. 5194 Scoring

There is a 1996 Hook blade in the knife storage cavity, in the original wrapping rust free and sharp.

The Knife Blade packets



One of the packets is a 5 Blades packet of 5991 Angled knife blades. On the back of this packet is a drawing of the 1991, 1992, 1996, 5192 and 5193 knife blades.

No. 5991 Angled knife blade and No. 5193 Convex knife blade are not listed in the 299E body.

The 5 Blades packet of 5991 Angled knife blades

Stanley-Titan Pty. Ltd.

Hobart. Tas. Australia.

Licensee of the Stanley Works, U.S.A.

The 5 Blades packet of 1996 Hooked knife blades

Stanley-Titan Pty. Ltd.

Hobart. Tas. Australia.

Licensee of the Stanley Works, U.S.A.

For Stanley knives

Nos. 99, 199 & 299

The 5 Blades packet of 1992 Heavy Duty knife blades

The Stanley Works Pty Ltd

Australia

For Stanley knives

Nos. 99, 199 & 299

The 5 Blades packet of 1991 Normal Duty knife blades

The Stanley Works Pty Ltd

Australia

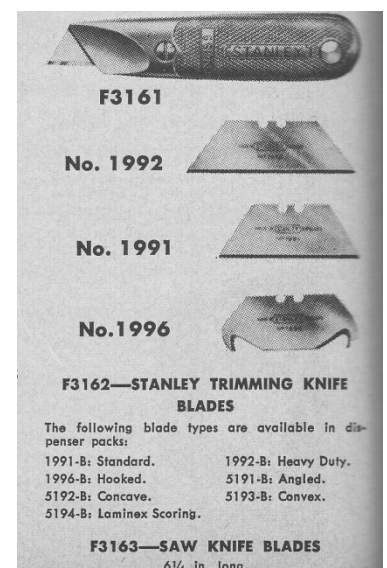
For Stanley knives

Nos. 199 & 299

McPersons Ltd

1966

Catalogue



Restoring Old Tools

Fred Murrell

When a person comes across a derelict old tool at a garage sale or a flea market what goes through his mind? Does he say to himself, "I can clean that up and put it back to work" or does he say, "I can restore that and add it to my collection", or "I can clean that up and make a few bob out of it". If the latter is his intention, where will he sell it? On Ebay, at a flea market, at a TTTG tool sale, at auction, or at a collector fair?

Each of these purposes requires a different approach.

The tools restored for sale in an antique market or collector's fair are usually highly polished to attract the attention of a lady who might be induced to buy it for her husband, without necessarily knowing anything about it. My wife once bought me a highly polished German Jack plane missing the horn and with the sole worn to about 1/8th of an inch, a split from end to end, a nail holding it together and with both cheeks split. She bought the plane for me because it was highly polished and it looked lovely.

This can be contrasted with the collector who likes to polish things from end to end. different to where the seller simply wipes the grime from the tool and puts it on his stall in the local flea market.

Different again, if the restorer intends to return the tool to an "in use" condition as if the tool was being used by a tradesman who cared for his tools without going overboard. This approach is my favoured option.

How much time do you spend?

Consider:

- (a) The type of tool and its scarceness
- (b) The condition - can it be successfully restored?
- (c) Importantly, the value - will you be spending several hours with the knowledge that you will never recover your time when you eventually move the tool on, even if resale is not your intention. See the photo of the moulding plane that has been extensively restored.

Having decided the purpose for which an item has been bought how do you go about bringing it back to life?

If it is for your own use and to be reasonably cared for I suggest these steps in respect of a couple of commonly available items.

Firstly assume a chisel has been acquired, rusty as an iron hoop, ground on both sides or been used to open cans of paint or both with a mushroom shaped handle.

Before removing the damaged handle and assuming the chisel is not deeply pitted, in which case it is unlikely to be a good restorable project, I would scrape the surface rust from the blade. For this purpose I use a piece of 1" by 3/16" mild steel flat bar the tip of which has a piece of tungsten carbide silver soldered to it. The leading edge which is slightly radiused is ground to 90 degrees. I have it slightly radiused so the edges will not tear a groove in the surface of the tool.

With about 90% of the chisels I restore, all that is then needed to remove the remaining rust, is a few seconds on my wire wheel. My wire wheel was one of my father's projects about sixty years ago and is driven by a spin dryer motor from a twin-tub Hoover washing machine. I mention that because it runs at only 1,800 revolutions per minute turning a 4" wheel and if I bump the wheel with my fingers it does not take off any skin. The benefit is not only do I rarely injure myself using this wheel, but it also does not remove the dark grey patina which usually lurks below the rust. Often after scraping the rust off, coarse steel wool will finish the job.

People have said to me that you are merely shaving the top off the rust. I agree, but a short spray with Jim Davey's "G15" keeps it that way and I prefer that to a surface with the thousands of

miniature pock marks left from rust that has been chemically removed or over-cleaned with a high speed wire wheel.

I will deal with chemical and other rust removing methods later.

The chisel should now be at the stage of receiving a new handle. If you have a wood turning lathe it is not difficult to turn one, retaining the original ferule if it is useable. To remove the damage often found on a brass ferule I slide the ferule onto a marlin spike and tap it gently with a small engineering hammer. To remove the handle I have had success with an old kitchen knife driven into the space between the ferule and the shoulder of the chisel. Sometimes this doesn't work and it would require a shot from hell to shift it, so you may have to demolish the wood to remove the ferule.

The next step, of course, is to grind and hone it.

If the tool is a plane that has lost japanning, the decision needs to be made whether or not to repaint. If, for example, it has lost, say, ninety per cent of its paint, and the plane is for resale, I would not hesitate to repaint the plane. The economics of repainting is important. The job requires using paint stripper to remove all the old finish. For example, if the plane is a post 1960's No.4, the effort and expense would not increase its value enough to make it worthwhile.

What to paint it with.

The product I use is gloss engine black, spray paint which does not require an undercoat and I apply about six or seven light coats at frequent intervals, then put it in the oven at 100 degrees centigrade for an hour. This produces a very tough, almost chip proof coating which loses a bit of its gloss after a few years and is also virtually indistinguishable from the lead based japan originally used.

If it is planned to sell a plane that has lost a bit of paint, it can be touched up with a couple of light sprays on the affected spots, but the touch-up will be discernible if the surface is looked at closely.

Emery paper, Linisher and flap wheels

I will use emery paper when there is no other way to revive an old tool. This is true particularly with saw blades and the sides of old Stanley planes and irons. To use emery on those, I use a piece of form ply cramped to the bench with a piece of 75mm x 25mm timber jamming a sheet of emery between the form ply and the piece of timber. The piece of timber is used as a fence so that the emery grind marks will all be parallel to the sole of the plane. I step to finer paper as the result is achieved.

Linishers, like a belt sander have a roller each end of the linisher platform. These rollers are slightly cambered to keep the belt running

true. Because the rollers are cambered, the belt is tighter in the centre than the edges. The edges of the belt thus tend to flap and round the edge of the item being finished. This is very slight, but is noticeable where the item is a chisel or a plane iron. I have had some measure of success in preventing this by leaning as heavily on the job as the linisher will allow without it struggling, thus tightening the belt.

Electrolysis, citric acid, molasses, vinegar, phosphoric and other acids.

All these have their place, but control is essential.

However patina will always be lost where a corrosive process is used.

Citric acid is particularly useful on old rasps and files that otherwise have passed their use-by dates as the action of removing some of the steel actually refreshes the teeth.

Electrolysis is probably the most gentle and controllable of the rust removing methods while vinegar seems to be something people drop a couple of old chisels in and forget about until they are suddenly remembered and found to be past restoring. Even when they are recovered earlier, the chisels are not as I would like to use as they have a rough 'pickled' finish which you could easily strike a match on.

TTTG Citric Acid

450 grams \$5

Should you polish the brass?

The purpose of restoring the tool is paramount in this regard.

If a sliding bevel with unpolished brass plates on it is put on a stall in an antique shop, the item is unlikely to find a buyer. If the bevel is to be used at home, the brass should be clean but not necessarily polished, although polishing does no harm unless the edges have been rounded over in the polishing process.

I am comfortable with polishing the handle screws on a Stanley plane, particularly early planes as the polished brass sets off the Rosewood handle and knob. In a year or so the brass will revert to its aged colour.

Tool Cleaning and Repairs Workshop in 2015

There is an apparent demand for a workshop on this topic.

A workshop on Tool Repairs will be offered in 2015.

Probable date is April 2015.

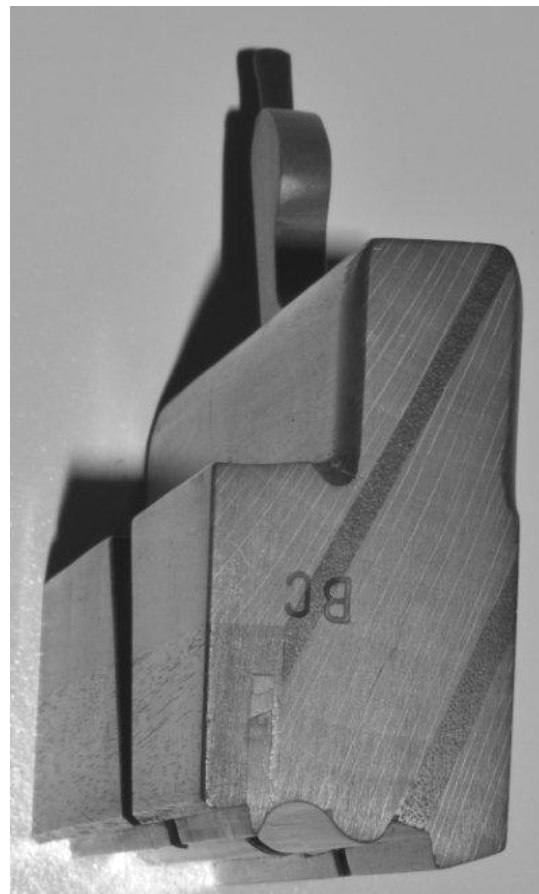
The Planes Workshops include cleaning and flattening planes. The Saws Workshops include rust removal and handle repairs. The Sharpening Workshops include rust removal.

There appears to be scope for a specific workshop on the ethics of Tool Cleaning and Repairs which includes “hands on” skills.

To conclude the discussion, I have photographed a moulding plane I acquired some years ago.

The plane was obviously derelict and has been extensively rebuilt. Clearly the highly skilled person who restored the plane did not do it for financial reasons.

The plane has obviously been in three parts and the restorer has used two filets of Tasmanian blackwood to rebuild the body with another piece of blackwood to house the boxing.



Editor's Comments

Fred's article provides a good basis for further discussion.

Send your response to the editor for inclusion in *NEWS* 141.

Workshops at Brush Farm House



Saw Sharpening



Advanced plane techniques

JD's

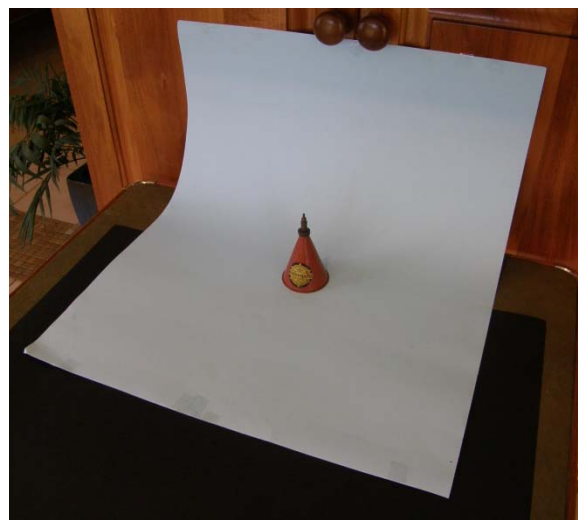
A Point of View John Daniel

At times we tend to flip through books and dismiss illustrations and photographs as they lack that attention grabbing appeal. Why is that? Often so much work and research may have been invested in an attempt to communicate a story or viewpoint and lost for the want of a focus. What better means to encourage further reading of an article, or for that matter, the whole text, is a relevant eye catching photograph?

What is it about some photos?



Obviously the subject must be interesting; however presentation can add interest to a mediocre object. One doesn't need an expensive camera, special lighting equipment or a bag full of lenses to take a photo; however the photographer needs to consider the composition, distractions in the background, the source of the light and the purpose of the photo.



There's a plethora of books for the amateur photographer however here are just a few techniques used when taking photos for the *JD's* pages.



There is always a choice between placing a tool either in a setting to display in context or to isolate it for impact; the photo of the Valvespout oil can is an example of the latter. A sheet of cardboard was softly folded to give a seamless background and no distractions; the object commands attention, notice the difference in impact in the choice of colour of the background; never be afraid to experiment.



The three English Slater's hammers were photographed from above using a flash. The intention here was to take an honest photo showing warts-and-all and give the shot a bit of life by placing them randomly, in contrast, the three leather worker's hammers were regimented to compare the variations between the English, German and French.



The two Coach Upholstering hammers are placed in a position to show the side claws on their heads, notice that the top hammer is placed so that the handle underneath better illustrates the side claw of the top head; the positioning on the bench with the glimpse of the pegboard behind adds depth to the shot.



Note: - Apart from my "Point of View" regarding photos, this article was also used to illustrate a few different hammers. The Brades ball pein hammer belonged to a close friend and has sentimental value (see the story "Harry's Hammer" in the Kiama Woodcrafts October Newsletter on their Web Site) and the Turner/Stanley knife was inspired by Graeme Plaw's excellent article on Stanley knives in NEWS 139, and the little oil can begged to be included and proved to be the most photogenic.

The Brades ball peined hammer was placed on a towel-covered sloping board facing a window for lighting; the towel allows the highlighting on the hammer.



The Turner/Stanley knife was placed on the desk top, then two photos taken the first of the knife to show its profile, then secondly, a close-up to illustrate the Turner trademark (this could also be achieved by cropping the first photo).



Photography is only limited by ones imagination and sense of experimentation. As mentioned earlier, never forget the purpose of the shot, don't be afraid to experiment and remember, once a photo goes to print, it needs to get its message across. The final click takes less than a second, however it's the time and thought invested in the preparation that pays off.

About **JD's**

John Daniel is a long time regular contributor to *NEWS*. **JD's** is popular both in print and on the TTTG website.

The Best of JD's is a TTTG publication in preparation. Settling into at Brush Farm House and the work on the new TTTG website have both limited the time the editors have spent on **The Best of JD's**.

The current projected date of publication is before the Sydney Wood Show

TTTG Rust Removal Guidelines

Bob Crosbie

- 1) Always select a method of rust removal that does the least damage to the original surface.
- 2) Pickling in acid can destroy the integrity of the tool.
- 3) Electrolysis can destroy the integrity of the tool.
- 4) Sand Blasting will destroy the integrity of the tool.
- 5) Mechanical abrasion can destroy the integrity of the tool.
- 6) Pickling in acid or Electrolysis, if used with care, can both effectively remove light surface rust without destroying the integrity of the tool.
- 7) Hand abrasion if used with care, can effectively remove light surface rust without destroying the integrity of the tool.
- 8) Conservation is preferable to restoration. Old surfaces and evidence of use are important.

Risks of removing rust in acid

- 1) The acid will continue to etch the surface if the tool is soaked for a prolonged period in acid.
- 2) Saws and springs will have the "tension" in the steel altered if the tool is soaked for a prolonged period in acid. The hydrogen generated in the acid reaction leads to hydrogen embrittlement after a prolonged soaking to the detriment of saws and springs.

Removing rust by abrasion

Hand abrasion gives the best results. Use a medium cloth backed metal cutting abrasive wrapped around a wood, cork or rubber block. Use soapy water, light oil or white spirits as a lubricant. Abrade in one direction. Finish with fine grade abrasive cloth. Mechanical sanding will destroy the original surface and may change the tension in saw blades. Sand blasting should never be used to remove rust from tools. Loose rust is best removed by using an engineer's scraper.

Chemical Rust Removers

Evaporust is probably the best and safest option to remove rust from old tools. Other commercial products are available.

TTTG Citric Acid Instructions

- 1) Use a hot solution.
- 2) Check every fifteen minutes.
- 3) Clean off the loose oxide with a coarse cloth.
- 4) Wash tool in soapy water, dry and apply a rust preventive (such as G15).

Cleaning vinegar can also be used to remove rust. Use cautiously as with Citric Acid.

Stronger acids are best avoided. Molasses will remove rust but it is a slow and uncontrolled process. Electrolysis is often recommended but the process will etch into rust pits and destroy the original surface finish.

The “Wing” Gauge & Instrument Co, Melbourne, Australia

Bob Crosbie

The "Wing" Gauge & instrument Co specialised in the design and manufacture of machine shop and laboratory gauge equipment as well as a range of single cylinder, air-cooled four-stroke petrol engines of 2.5 to 3.5 horse power. “Wing” made engineering and machinist tools including taps and dies as well as cast iron surface plates up to 48 x 36 inches in size and later granite plates were produced. But, these items are rarely found ‘in the wild’.

The firm is first mentioned in official records in 1941 as the 'Wing Gauge & Instrument Co' located at 16 Baker Street, Richmond, Victoria. During 1947 the company relocated to 322 Burwood Road, Hawthorn, Victoria; a suburb where other engineering firms had established. By 1958 the company was officially registered as The Wing Gauge & Instrument Co with a share capital of £100,000.

In the early 1960s “Wing” came under the control of Philips Electrical Industries and engine production ceased. The subsequent history of the company is somewhat complex with name changes and share dealings which prevent a clear picture of its operations. However, it moved again at this time to 277-289

Middleborough Road, Box Hill, Victoria. Wing Industries Pty Ltd was then a holding company with Wing Gauge & Instrument Co a subsidiary. The company was now focussed on the manufacture of specialist and precision instruments.

Further name changes occurred in 1966 when the name changed to Wing Tool Pty Ltd and in 1969 it reverted to Wing Industries Pty Ltd but with 5 subsidiary companies: Liberty Tools Pty Ltd, RFE Pty Ltd, Sealex Pty Ltd, Wing Tool Pty Ltd and Wing Sales Pty Ltd.

“Wing” ceased production in the 1970s and remained dormant until it closed in 1997. A recent ‘find’ was a 10 x 4 inch cast iron surface plate made by the “Wing” Gauge & Instrument Co of Melbourne, Australia.

The plate bears Department of Defence broad-arrow markings and the serial number Z128-35. The casting is very well-made and heavily ribbed with a ‘regulation’ three-point stand. The reference surface is precision finished by hand scraping. A wooden cover is included, but this may not be a factory-made item. Looks like a product lives up to the company logo.

References

<http://www.oldengine.org/members/kennedy/wing/gauge.htm>



The Wing Logo

The photos give some indication of the high quality of this surface plate. Condition is virtually new.



Traditional Woodworking in the United States

Jim Littlefield

The United States, the land of my birth, can be a crazy place. Most Australians would agree. To those who see the value of traditional woodworking skills, the United States may offer a glimmer of hope. Bob Crosbie has written about and recommended the American magazine “Popular Woodworking” for its emphasis on hand skills and traditional techniques.

The contributors to the magazine Popular Woodworking include Christopher Schwarz, Mario Rodriguez, Roy Underhill, Glen Huey, Michael Dunbar, Peter Follansbee, and Adam Cherubini. They all have proven track records as woodworkers and writers, and continue to promote the value of traditional tools and techniques. Chris Schwarz is a prolific blogger and it seems an indefatigable maker, teacher, and researcher. To the delight of this cabinetmaker his terminology of joints, tools and methods is just about impeccable.

There are of course other quality woodworking magazines, both American and English, but Popular Woodworking remains my personal favourite. Its success is testimony to the interest and involvement in traditional woodwork in America.

Traditional apprenticeships are rare in the United States, if they

exist at all. There are many woodworking schools where, if you can afford the fees, you can learn to build a boat, a Windsor chair, make 18th century furniture (or 21st century furniture), learn architectural joinery, greenwood construction, and many other wood working skills.

Over the years I’ve had the opportunity to visit a couple of schools and workshops in the United States of America.

Some of my impressions follow.

In 1986 I was lucky enough to spend two weeks at the Wooden Boat School in Maine where the participants talked, breathed, ate, drank, and slept wooden boats. These were two of the most enjoyable, informative, and productive, weeks of my life.

On another trip to New England I had the pleasure of chatting to Peter Follansbee, the joiner extraordinaire at the Plimouth Plantation just south of Boston and near Plymouth. Plimouth Plantation is a re-creation of the settlement established by the ‘Pilgrims’ in 1620. It sounds corny, but it’s really well done. Actors take the parts of ‘real’ Pilgrims. They dress in convincing period clothes, speak with convincing 17th century regional English accents, and tell convincing stories of the times, people, and place.

Peter works mainly in oak using the tools and methods of an

English joiner of the 17th century: riven oak, draw bored and pegged mortise and tenon joints, frame and panel construction, chip carving, etc. Incidentally, Peter does not dress or speak in a 17th century manner. He's a welcoming, intelligent, and articulate man with a love of period furniture and historic joinery, not to mention impressive skills.

In Boston I visited the North Bennet St. School, a full time, fee paying, accredited school teaching fine woodworking. The standard of work I saw there equates to that produced by the students at Sturt School for Wood in Mittagong; that is, very high. The school is in an unassuming building just up the road from the Old North Church (1723) of Paul Revere's midnight ride fame, and on the edge of the old Italian district where you can actually get a good cup of coffee!

South a few hundred miles, but still on the East Coast is Williamsburg, Virginia. Once a thriving colonial town and the capital of Virginia, it went into slow decline when the capital was moved to Richmond. As a result an 18thC colonial town was more or less preserved, though sorely neglected. In the 1930s John Rockefeller fell in love with the place. He was persuaded by a few locals to help finance the restoration of the town. After many millions of dollars and untold hours of labour –years of labour-

Williamsburg is now an exemplar of preservation and recreation. It is not a theme park, but a place of serious research and education.

Like Plimouth, but on a larger scale, it is peopled by actors playing totally convincing roles, including slaves. Those engaged in trades, professions, merchants etc. are the real deal – whether they are cooks, mercers, candle makers or cabinetmakers these are people who really know their stuff. The wood trades are represented by coopers, joiners, wheelwrights, and cabinetmakers.

The cabinetmaker's shop is located on the spot where Anthony Hay had his workshop in and around 1775. The cabinetmakers work with 18th century tools and equipment and build museum standard 18th century furniture. This is not just to reproduce fine furniture, but to rediscover and document the (surprisingly efficient) building methods. I watched the cabinetmakers work as long as I could and thought how good it would be to work in such a place –maybe in another lifetime- but then we had to move on.

However, you can follow a lot of what goes on in the Anthony Hay workshop by travelling no further than your computer. Google Anthony Hay Cabinetmaker 18th Century Woodworking and look at the regular blogs on the work carried out in the workshop using traditional hand tools.

The blogs include; using moulding planes to produce picture frame mouldings, the “I love wood!” piece on building a child’s crib – the perils of movement even in well-seasoned stuff. The topics include mouldings, carvings, spinet building, measuring historic pieces, setting out work and proportioning mouldings etc. with a rule and dividers, finishing and re-sawing 18th century style, and so much more.

Don’t miss the photos of Mack Headley (now retired master cabinetmaker) preparing legs for a Chinese Chippendale chair, or the reproduction of the Seaton tool chest, and so much more.

Then there’re Roy Underhill’s “Woodwright’s Shop” videos available on line...

Jim Littlefield is a long time TTTG member and retired TAFE teacher.

The New TTTG Website

TTTG has been developing a new look and easier to use TTTG website. The work on the new website has been undertaken by Michael Smith.

The New TTTG Website provides;

- ***An easier to use and less cluttered interface***
- ***Gallery of latest events and rare tools***
- ***Calendar of up-coming events and workshops***
- ***The best of “News” articles***
- ***Links to many other tool sites***

The New TTTG Website offers;

- ***On line membership payment***
- ***Workshop enrolments at www.macquarie.nsw.edu.au***

In 2015 members can nominate to receive NEWS by email

Hackney Tools



OCT 04

'English Sash Planes' by David Nelson

History, Moulding planes

by Gary



David Nelson, a reader of the blog from the US has kindly sent me a digital copy an excellent guide he's produced about English sash planes.

Tags: [sash making](#), [sash planes](#)

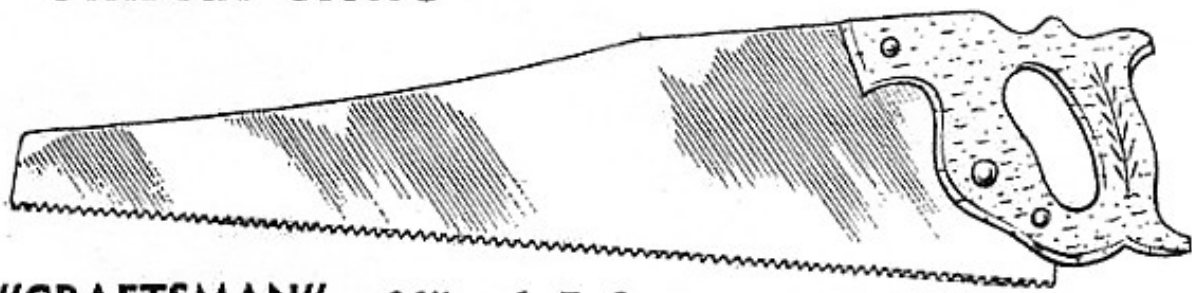
A digital guide of David Nelson's guide may be downloaded at www.hackneytools.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/EnglishSashPlanesbyDavidNelson.pdf Gary has some great tools, comments and links on this website.

TATHS has recently published an update of Jane Rees research on using Sash Planes and Sash Templates.

An article from NEWS by Bob Crosbie was included in this update. There has been some speculation by TATHS and online on the use of Sash Templates. The TTTG NEWS article is based on research.

1960s Made in Australia

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"CRAFTSMAN"—26" x 6, 7, 8 pt.
 Finest quality electrically melted saw steel — precision ground, set and filed. Made in Australia.

1960s Advertising

*When your customer asks—
 "How can I bore a 1½" dia. hole
 when my hand drill chuck is only 1/4" ?*



**-show him a
 Ridgway Flatbit!**

The Ridgway 355 Flatbit greatly extends the scope of the popular electric hand-drill. Not only can he bore bigger holes—sizes ½" to 1½" dia.—he can:

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"The reason I think your advertising has been successful enough to make Sher a well-known name, even almost household, is factual, technical, informative advertising".

"I have never experienced such rapid service from any establishment or business at any time before".

(Signed)
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3 EFFICIENT AFTER SALES SERVICE

 **AND HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF OTHER SHER USERS**

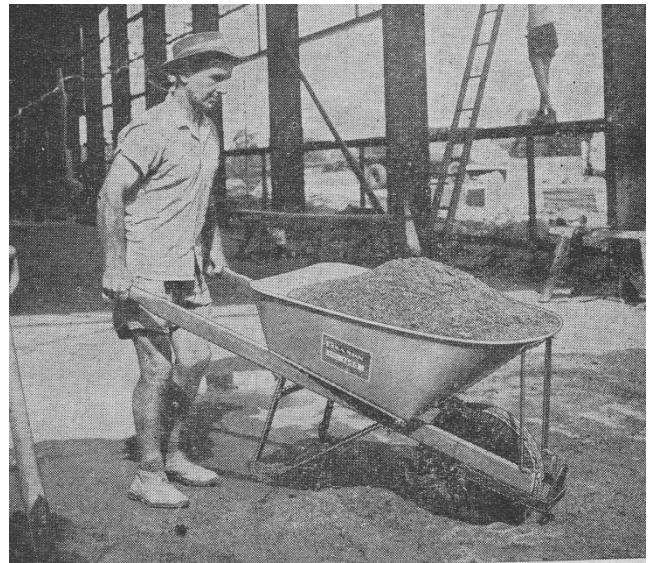
BE SURE OF GREATER PROFITS

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THERE'S NO BUSINESS LIKE SHER BUSINESS

SR-2

Saxon Wheel Barrows



The wheel barrow on top right is similar to other builder's barrows, *Kelso*, *IXL* and *Tomlin* made from the 1950s. These barrows have pump up tyres and can take it! For the stay at home house wife and "junior" lighter barrows!



The Tool Chest Issue 113 August 2014

Wheelbarrows Part 3 Warren Hewertson

This article concludes a comprehensive a history of the wheel barrow. Part 3 examines wheel barrows as mounting and transporting vehicles. The discussion is complimented by Bruce Sandie's excellent photographs. A memorable illustration is of the Australian *Lightning* wheel barrow mounted and hand cranked tilting concrete mixer.

All TTTG members should consider also joining the HTPAA. www.htpaa.org.au

Sydney Tool Conference

TTTG is in the initial stage of planning a Tool Conference.

The location will be Brush Farm House, Eastwood. Contact the editor.

Neat's-foot Oil

The oilstone should be kept well lubricated with a good oil—neat's-foot oil diluted with paraffin is as good as anything, if the *real* neat's-foot can be obtained. What is often sold as neat's-foot oil is worse than linseed, and will clog and spoil the stone. Olive oil or sperm oil is also very good for the stone.

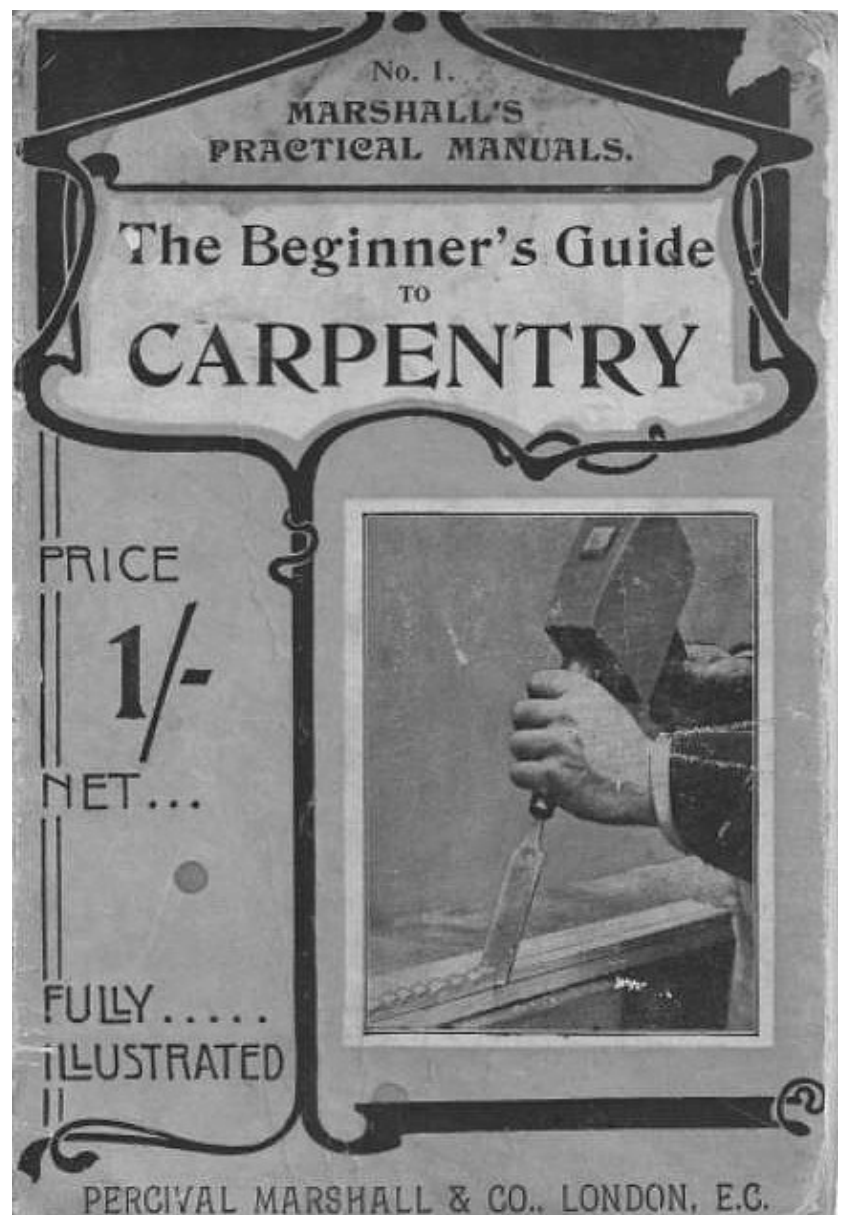
Marshall's Practical Manuals contain useful information on basic traditional skills. The series was probably first published in the 1920s.

Recently in the USA there has been renewed interest in using oilstones to sharpen edge tools. Natural stones are again available at very reasonable prices. The best natural oilstones are made by "Dan" and sold locally by Jim Davey Tools.

There are vast numbers of old oilstones in the wild, both natural and artificial. The best man-made stones are Norton "India".

Commonly old oilstones are glazed and useless, often smelling like rotting leather. Such stones were lubricated with neat's-foot oil.

To restore an old oilstone to useable condition soak it in thinners. Flatten the stone with a diamond plate. *White spirit is the best lubricant to use on oilstones.*



Review

Bob Crosbie

Benchmarking Accuracy

Furniture and Cabinetmaking

Issue 221 August 2014

There is some useful information in this article but there is more theory than practical application. As an example; the author argues that only squares marked with a “standard” should be used but he doesn’t explain how to test a try square for accuracy. Even new tools can suffer from a fall and it is necessary to test even the best tools for accuracy.

The section *Hand plane tolerances* is interesting but the claim that lapping bench planes should only be a last resort and should never be necessary on a new tool calls for more analysis than is provided.

The article is worth reading to gain an understanding of tolerances as applied to try squares, planes and straight edges. The *NEWS* editor cannot resist commenting;

you will get far more from attending a TTTG workshop.

Bench Plane Restoration

Popular Woodworking Magazine

October 214 #213

This article by Willard Anderson is subtitled *Learn five common fixes for vintage wooden tools.*

Anyone interested in using wooden planes should read this article and follow the author’s suggestions. The concise text is complemented by excellent photos and drawings.

The topics covered include:

- Flattening the sole
- Closing the mouth
- Replacing a sole
- Making a wedge
- Making a handle

Willard cautions against destroying the identity or history of old tools.

The online box gives links to other Popular Woodworking publications on wooden planes.

Anyone interested in learning more about wood planes should attend a TTTG workshop in 2015.

AMH AUSTRALIAN
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HOBBYIST

australianmetalworkinghobbyist.com

Your best source for Hercus Lathe parts with over 300 products available to purchase or source. Any questions don't hesitate to contact AMH.

The Australian Metalworking Hobbyist claim on their website is accurate! This website is the starting point for anyone looking for Hercus, South Bend and Sheraton lathe parts and lathe tooling. Good prices and great service.

Review

What TTTG Reviews

TTTG does not follow the practice of other old tool interest groups such as TATHS or the HTPAA of reviewing other journals. Instead the editor tries to review articles in magazines that have information of interest to TTTG members.

Any TTTG member can submit a review for publication in NEWS.

Reviews in NEWS are not limited to articles published in magazines. The reality is no publication can review everything of interest.

Woodworking Magazines

In the editor's opinion the leading woodworking magazines are;

Popular Woodworking

Furniture and Cabinetmaking

Fine Woodworking

Popular Woodworking is arguably the best current woodworking magazine. This magazine has an associated website. Unlike most American publications the tools methods advocated are not influenced by the advertisers.

Furniture and Cabinetmaking has published a series of articles on traditional which have been reviewed in NEWS.

The current issue for sale on the newsstands has several articles of interest to old tool advocates.

Furniture and Cabinetmaking Issue 223 October 2014

This has a lot for TTTG members,

-The Anarchist's Tool Chest in miniature

-Two Great Scottish Tool Makers

-The Magic of hand tools

No reviews this time, just a "worth reading" recommendation.

As this issue of *NEWS* reviews Furniture and Cabinetmaking Issue 221 August 2014 the editor is obliged to recommend what is "worth reading" in

Furniture and Cabinetmaking Issue 222 September 2014

-Make your own long grain shooting board

-The great plane makers-the Holtzapffel dynasty

The website of the month was the Bad Axer Tool Works.

Popular Woodworking #214

#214 will be on the newsstands by the time *NEWS* 140 is published. It is certain to have at least one article of interest to *NEWS* readers.

Fine Woodworking #241 August 2014

-Do more with your block plane

"Worth reading"

You learn far more about planes at a TTTG Planes Workshop.

Men's Sheds

For The Record

The editor of *NEWS* has been accused of being critical of some unnamed Men's Sheds. TTTG is a financial member of the Men's Sheds organisation, so whenever the editor is made aware of unsafe working environments or irresponsible actions he feels that it is our responsibility to raise the alarm.

The editor of *NEWS* is aware of many Men's Sheds that follow sound work practices and provide a safe and supportive environment. Even if only a few Men's Shed do not adhere to Work Health and Safety guidelines this is a problem that should not be ignored. Safety should be addressed in any Men's Shed. The solutions are always simple. Work Cover will offer good practical advice if it is needed.

"How do we stop them working like that?" isn't an excuse. The editor has seen some real blood curdling incidents in a Men's Shed. Proper management and supervision can avoid such incidents.

Near misses will eventually become serious accidents.

TTTG and Men's Sheds

TTTG can assist Men's Sheds in various practical ways by

- Identifying tools and machines
- Assessing the significance of tools
- Offering Heritage advice

All it takes is an email to TTTG.

The issue of old tools and heritage items in Men's Sheds should be discussed openly.

Some comments received by the editor from some Men's Sheds are along the lines of:

- Hardly anyone in this Men's Shed uses hand tools.
- Most of the hand tools in this Men's Shed are blunt or damaged.
- Old furniture or joinery donated to this Men's Shed is broken up for the timber and put through the circular saw or thicknesser.

Men's Shed are meant to help men by providing a safe and supportive environment and no Men's Shed should endanger health and safety.

For the record, as a member of the Men's Sheds organisation TTTG fully supports Men's Sheds and their aims.

New *NEWS* Feature

In the Shed

The editor wants your Men's Shed stories for publication in *NEWS*. *Let other readers learn about the great things happening in Men's Sheds.*

Jim Davey



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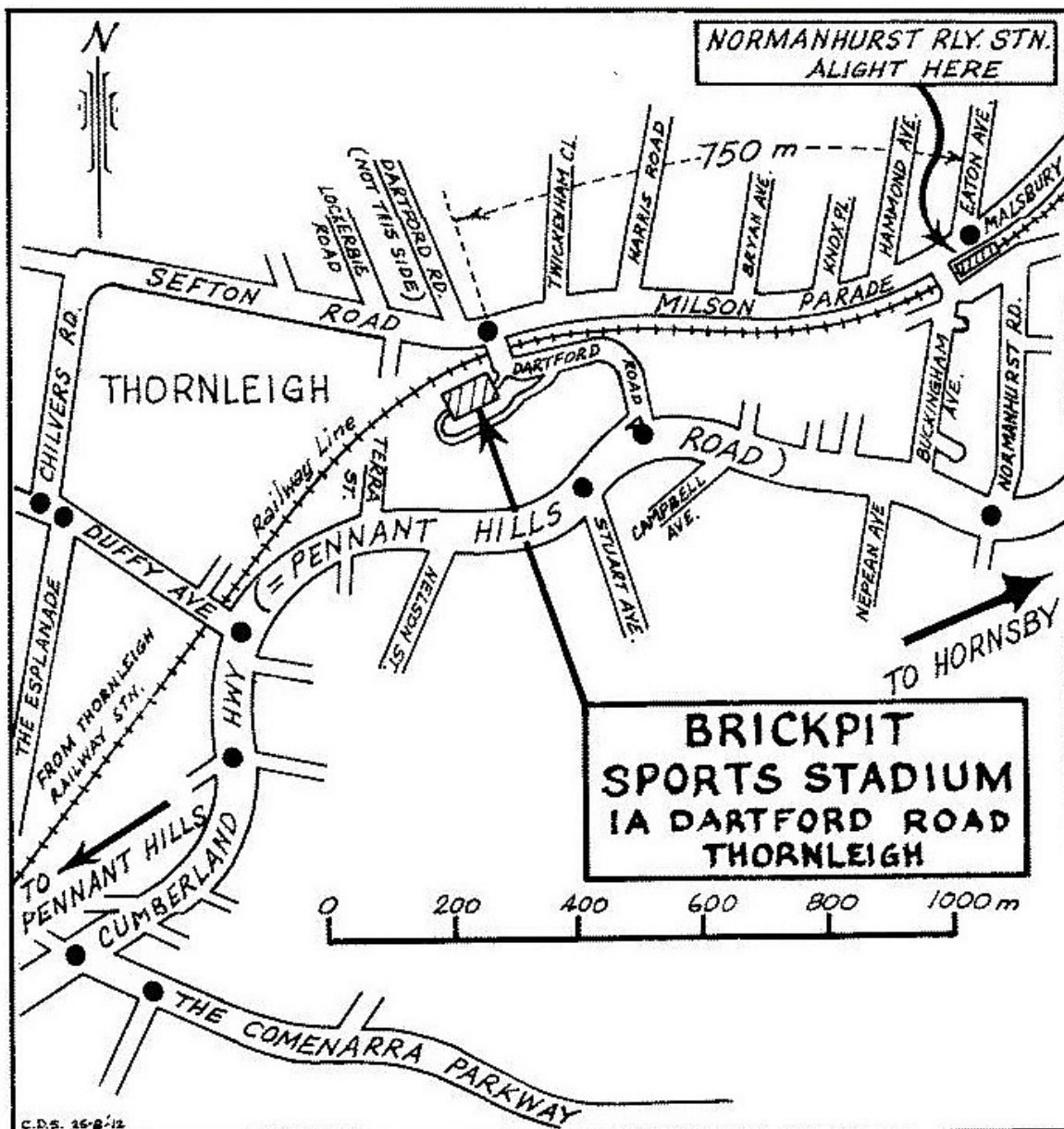
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Vendors please note

No trading off the floor

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