

NEWS 172



May 2022

www.ttg.org.au

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Cover illustration: "Caught! Crime and Punishment"

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TTTG Meetings and Events:

For details of TTTG Meetings, Workshops and Sales see the website:

www.tttg.org.au

Two Future Meetings:***Tools from the TTTG Collection***

- *Stanley Planes and Stanley's rivals*
- *Early Australian-made Power Tools*

The audience will get to examine these rare tools.

What is TTTG

TTTG is the Traditional Tools Group; a not-for-profit group of like-minded enthusiasts interested in the history and preservation of traditional trade skills, techniques, and tools, including hand tools, machinery, and other old technologies. TTTG was established in 1992.

Our bi-monthly Members' meetings typically feature a guest speaker or a panel talking on diverse topics related to tools, trades, and technology.

Keeping traditional tool skills alive is a key objective of TTTG.

"Real Skills" workshops have been held every year since 2005. These popular fee-based workshops, open to all, are designed to guide participants in developing their tool skills and learning and practising new techniques.

The Group sells old tools and machinery at affordable prices. Two or three "members and friends" Tool Sales are held each year at the Old Eastwood Town Hall, Marsfield. And every February TTTG runs Sydney's largest second-hand tools sale at Thornleigh.

Membership of the Traditional Tools Group is open to anyone with an interest in traditional tools history, techniques, and skills.

The TTTG digital magazine, creatively titled "NEWS", is published in digital form, and normally emailed to Members four times a year in February, May, August, and November.

"Trad Tools" a monthly TTTG bulletin sent to registered recipients by Mailchimp every month.

TTTG Membership Rules

MEMBERSHIP YEAR - starts 1 July and ends on the following 30 June.

MEMBERSHIP FEE - currently \$50 per year and is due to be paid on 1 July each year and must be paid on or before 1 August.

UN-FINANCIAL MEMBER – any Member who has NOT paid their Membership Fee by 1 August each year. That Member will cease to receive NEWS magazine or access to the Members' area of the website.

NEW MEMBER join between 1 July and 31 March the following year and receive full Membership for the remainder of that MEMBERSHIP YEAR.

NEW MEMBER join between 1 April and 30 June and receive full membership until the end of the following MEMBERSHIP YEAR.

MEMBERSHIP inquiries and questions to secretary@tttg.org.au.

TTTG Contacts & Fees 2021/22

2021/22 TTTG Fees

Membership \$50

Entry Fees:

**Real Skills Workshops
\$60**

**Members Meetings
\$5**

**Members & Friends Tool
Sales \$5**

TTTG Contacts

**Editorial/Advertising
Enquiries:**

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Membership Enquiries:

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NEWS Magazine and TRAD TOOLS Bulletin

NEWS Magazine is emailed to financial Members during:

FEBRUARY

MAY

AUGUST

NOVEMBER

TRAD TOOLS is the “for anyone interested” bulletin on TTTG.
TRAD TOOLS sent to registered recipients each month.

Next Members Meeting

OETH, 74 Agincourt Road,
Marsfield

**Tuesday 9 August 2022 –
starts at 7.00pm**

Entry \$5 incl tea & coffee

TOPIC: (to be advised)

plus

Sale of surplus tools

TTTG needs to make space, again!

Sharp Oil \$6

Citric Acid \$5

Volunteers Wanted

- To demonstrate skills*
- To “sell” TTTG*
- To write articles*
- To help with the website*
- To sort tools*
- To repair tools*
- To repair old machines*

*TTTG needs members who can talk
to an audience and can
demonstrate “real skills”*

TTTG Post COVID-19

The February 2022 Sydney Tool Sale was “as strong as ever”.

The May Members & Friends Tool Sale was also well attended.

The Sydney Timber Tools & Artisan Show is currently scheduled to return to Rosehill Gardens from 22 to 24 July 2022. More details at [Sydney Timber, Tools & Artisan Show | Timber & Working with Wood Show \(timbertoolsartisan.com.au\)](https://timbertoolsartisan.com.au)

Our “Real Skills” Workshops resumed in November 2021 and demand for these hands-on Workshops continues to be strong.

New workshops are being developed. *There will be more classes.*

Future “Real Skills” Workshops

- ***Planes, Tuning and Sharpening***
- ***Drawknives and Spokeshaves***
- ***Sharpening Saws***
- ***Chisels, Tuning and Sharpening***
- ***Basic Woodworking Processes***

TTTG Workshops offer small class sizes and quality teaching to insure “value for money”.

Keeping watching the TTTG website and reading the TTTG emails delivered via Mailchimp.

Trad Tools

The monthly update on what TTTG is doing. Trad Tools is emailed to all our Members and ‘Trad Tools’ subscribers.

Donation from Hare and Forbes (Machinery House)

TTTG was most fortunate to receive a recent most generous donation of a Bandsaw and Pedestal Drill Press from Hare and Forbes.

Special thanks must also go to Greg Pryor who kindly transported the equipment to the TTTG Workshop. The equipment will be put to effective use at the TTTG ‘Real Skills’ Workshops.

Hare and Forbes/Machinery House offer an extensive range of hand and machine tools at competitive prices. Special offers are available by becoming a *Machinery House Mate*. Join up at www.machineryhouse.com.au/signup

Just a Sec

John Bates, TTTG Secretary

Time to Renew Your TTTG Membership

Unless you have paid in advance your TTTG Membership expires on 30 June 2022. Please pay your 2022-23 Membership fees before 30 July. The fee is \$50.

You can pay via cheque, cash at the Members Meetings, PayPal online or EFT. Details are on the front page of the website www.tttg.org.au

TTTG Sydney Tool Sale 2023

The Stadium Manager has confirmed the booking date for the 2023 TTTG Sydney Tool Sale.

It will be on **Sunday 26 February 2023** and again the venue will be the Brickpit Sports Stadium at Thornleigh. Put this in your diary.

Other Dates to Remember

TTTG Members & Friends Tool Sales will be at OETH on Sunday 14 August and Sunday 4 December 2022.

Entry fee is \$5. If you are a financial Member and wish to hire a table, the cost is \$25 per table. Tables are limited so book early to avoid disappointment.

The End of an Era

Yes, after 172 editions of NEWS magazine our indefatigable editor, Bob Crosbie, is calling it a day – well 3 decades actually.

Of course, nobody could replace Bob, but we do need a new Editor and the job comes with lots of work and no remuneration. An opportunity to mark your place in TTTG history.

Interested?

Please contact the TTTG Secretary via secretary@tttg.org.au

Exploring Digital Meetings and Events

The last Members Meeting was also available on Zoom for a period of about 40 minutes. Feedback alerted us to sound issues, and we are looking at how these can be resolved.

This was just a trial run to explore the possibilities and opportunities of such technology.

Our next foray into the digital world will be via Skype and may be the Workshop Tool Sale on Sunday 3 July. Please keep an eye on your emails for a Skype invitation and link.

Just a Word

Bob Crosbie

I can only repeat, 2020 and 2021 were the years of Covid Crisis challenges.

During 2020 the extended Lockdown in Sydney prevented TTTG from holding Meetings, Tool Sales and “Real Skills” Workshops.

TTTG survived the lockdowns in 2020 and 2021 and again came out with a sound financial position.

2022 is a year of consolidation and growth for TTTG

A bold prediction? The TTTG Committee will make this claim realty!

The success of the February 2022 Sydney TTTG Tool Sale shows “interest is out there’.

TTTG needs to reach potential members and workshop attendees.

TTTG isn’t only about hand tools

- There is an urban myth that TTTG members only use hand tools
- TTTG promotes appropriate techniques and quality work
- TTTG cannot control the price of old tools

TTTG accepts donations and can help sell old tools

- Anyone who contacts TTTG to donate old tools is a lifesaver.
- TTTG can also sell old tools “on consignment”
- TTTG does not offer an old tool valuation service

Priority for 2022

A priority for 2022 is to review and improve the website.

Effective use of the website and social media will promote TTTG.

NEWS Editor Wanted

After editing over one hundred and seventy issues of NEWS the current Editor is stepping aside.

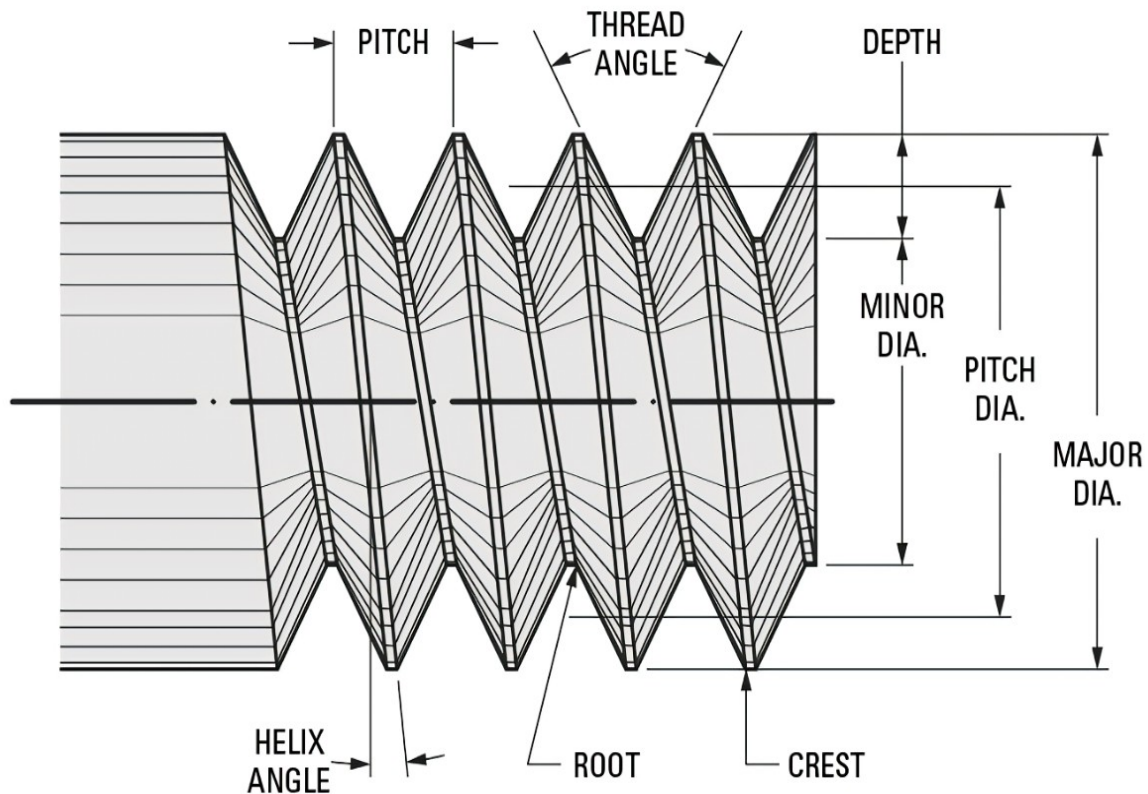
Who will step forward and take his place?

Threads and Thread Cutting

John Deeble

Thread Identification

Common thread types include the following : Metric fine and coarse, UNF, UNC, UNS, Whitworth, BSF, BA, ME, Brass, BSP/Gas, NPT/NPS, Conduit (Imperial and Metric), Square, Acme, Buttress, Bicycle, Special Threads, Wooden threads. Threads are produced in both right hand and left hand styles.



Thread charts are used to identify specific threads aided by thread measurement tools. The most common tool being a thread pitch gauge. Different types are required for specific thread types e.g., Metric – measuring pitch in mm. Unified types measuring TPI of 60 degree thread form, Whitworth types measuring TPI of 55 degree thread form.

Thread Cutting Tools

Thread cutting tools are manufactured from Carbon Steel or HSS. HSS having a much longer service life and accuracy but are more expensive.

External threads are cut by hand using dies. Various types exist to cut from very small to very large threads.

Typical examples include Button, Adjustable/Elastic/Split, Quick Cut, Square, Chaser Type.

Dies must be held in a Die Holder with the best types incorporating some form of guide.

Internal Threads are cut by hand using taps. Hand taps come in three types: Plug, Intermediate and Taper.

All three are required for some specific tasks while a taper tap may suffice for many tasks.

Taps are held in a tap wrench, common types include Bar and Tee wrenches

Cutting threads in wood requires special equipment using a single point cutter for external threads and a special purpose designed tap. External timber threads can be cut with a router and a special jig (Beall Jig).

Specialist lubricants are used to aid threading and to produce a better surface finish on the thread. Examples include Trefolex, Tap Magic, kerosene, and special threading oils. For materials like aluminium WD-40 can also be a useful tap and die lube.

Hand Threading Techniques

Techniques vary depending on the material being cut. For internal threads, the tapping hole size must be determined using a formula or tapping chart. This will be slightly larger than the minor diameter to avoid breakage of the tap. Once the tap has entered the hole and begun to cut a clockwise / counter-clockwise rotation is adopted to break the chip and to produce a clean cut thread. An appropriate lubricant is used to aid the cutting process.

A similar technique is adopted for external thread cutting. It is essential that the material being cut is not oversize on its diameter. Some die types are adjustable and allow the thread to be produced with multiple passes of the die. The use of a guide helps to ensure a parallel thread.

Aids to Tapping by Hand and Machine

Tapping chucks – these range from simple holders to automatic heads

Tailstock die holders – can be used under power or by hand with the lathe or drill press keeping things square.

Tap guides to keep the tap perpendicular to the hole

Tap centering and alignment tools for lathe and drill

Hand tapping jigs for small and micro threads

Broken Tap Removal

Unfortunately tap breakage is a common problem when hand threading. Due to the hardness of the tap, removal may be exceedingly difficult. Special tap extractors are manufactured by companies such as Walton (USA) to

allow tap removal. These can work well but often require multiple tools to fit the tap size and number of flutes.

In some cases, spark erosion, requiring expensive and specialised equipment may be required.

Machine Cut Threads

In manufacturing threads are most often cut by machine. Methods include thread rolling. Thread chasers, tapping heads with specialist taps, portable and fixed tapping machines, threading on the lathe both external and internal using quick change gearbox/change gears, threading dial. Modern CNC machinery can cut threads programmed into the cutting cycle.

Repairing Damaged Threads

Threads showing minor amounts of damage can be repaired using a purpose designed thread file which must match the specific thread form. Die Nuts can be used to repair external threads and hole can sometimes be re-tapped.

Stripped internal threads can be restored with Helicoils using specially designed taps and insert tools. These taps are usually marked "STI" which stands for Special Tap Insert.

Thread Measuring Tools & Equipment

Threads in industrial applications are often produced to fine tolerances to allow interchangeability.

This requires highly accurate measurement equipment such as the following: thread micrometers, measuring wires and prisms, go/no go gauges, diameter measuring machines, comparators.

Where to Purchase Taps and Dies

No matter how many taps and dies you may have you will never always have the one you want!

A few sources are:

Graham McDonald Services – (gmdengineering.com.au) - Unit 1/127 Magowar Rd Girraween – Ph. 9636 2284

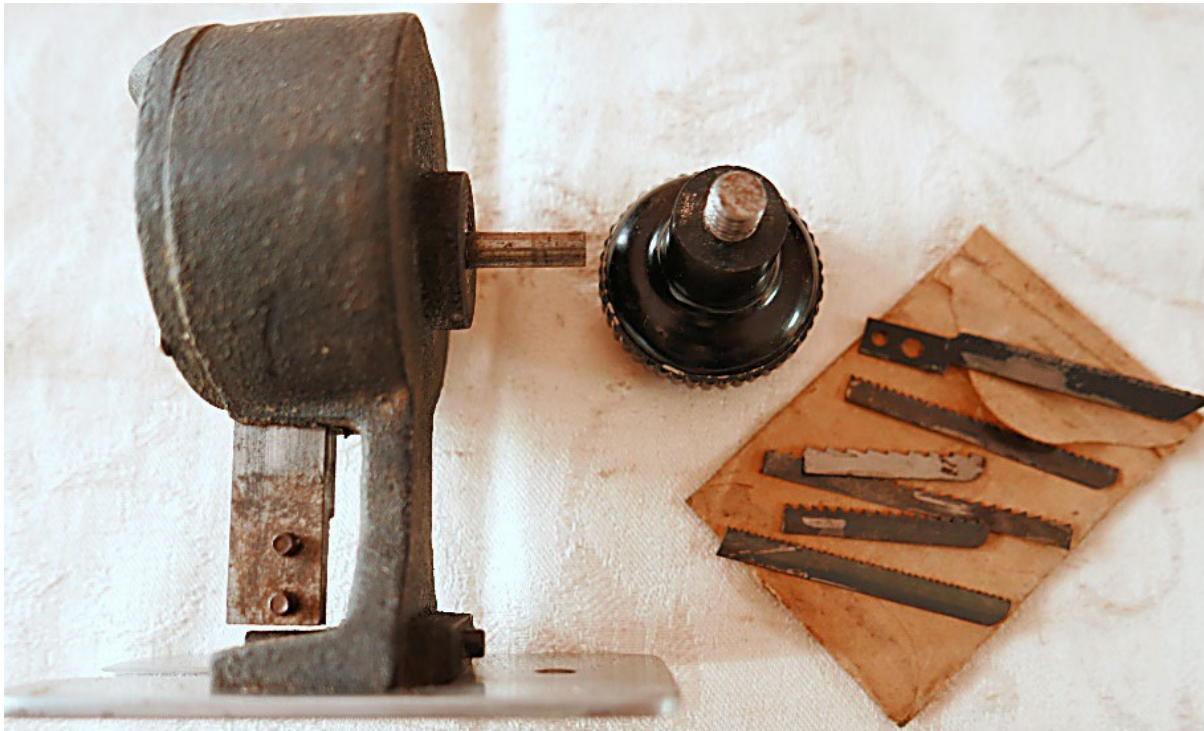
Mick Moyles Engineers Supplies - (moyles.com.au) – 20 Edward St Summer Hill - Ph 9799 8444 (new and used equipment)

EBay – Various suppliers new and used

The “Both” Drillsaw: *A History*

John Bates

The Drillsaw



The “Both” Drillsaw was made by Both Equipment Limited, South Australia. It is listed in Patent Application 15554/53 (later Australian Patent No.160060) filed on 21 January 1953 as an “*improved attachment for electric drills*” and, according to the writing on the box was designed for “*sawing wood, plywood, Masonite, plastics, wallboard, aluminium, etc.*”

Our example, approaching its seventieth year, presents as an interesting and well-designed little drill attachment. It is pictured on the box paired with what is most probably the very first KBC electric drill (more on that item below). I must confess that I have not attempted to use the tool, but it seems complete and fully operational.

The Drillsaw weighs in at about 1.2kg in the box. The base is quite sturdy and made from stainless steel with the remainder being coated in a tough black crinkle-finish enamel. The paint has certainly stood the test of time. Depth of cut is rather small judging by the length and width of the included saw blades, so the intended use was clearly the various 1950s sheet and board products like Masonite. Blade clamping is fairly rudimentary but has been well thought out and even provides an adjustable guide/backstop which looks like it may allow some adjustment of saw rake. Not sure whether all the saw blades provided came as standard with the tool.

I'll save the post-mortem for the brave soul who does the first test drive.

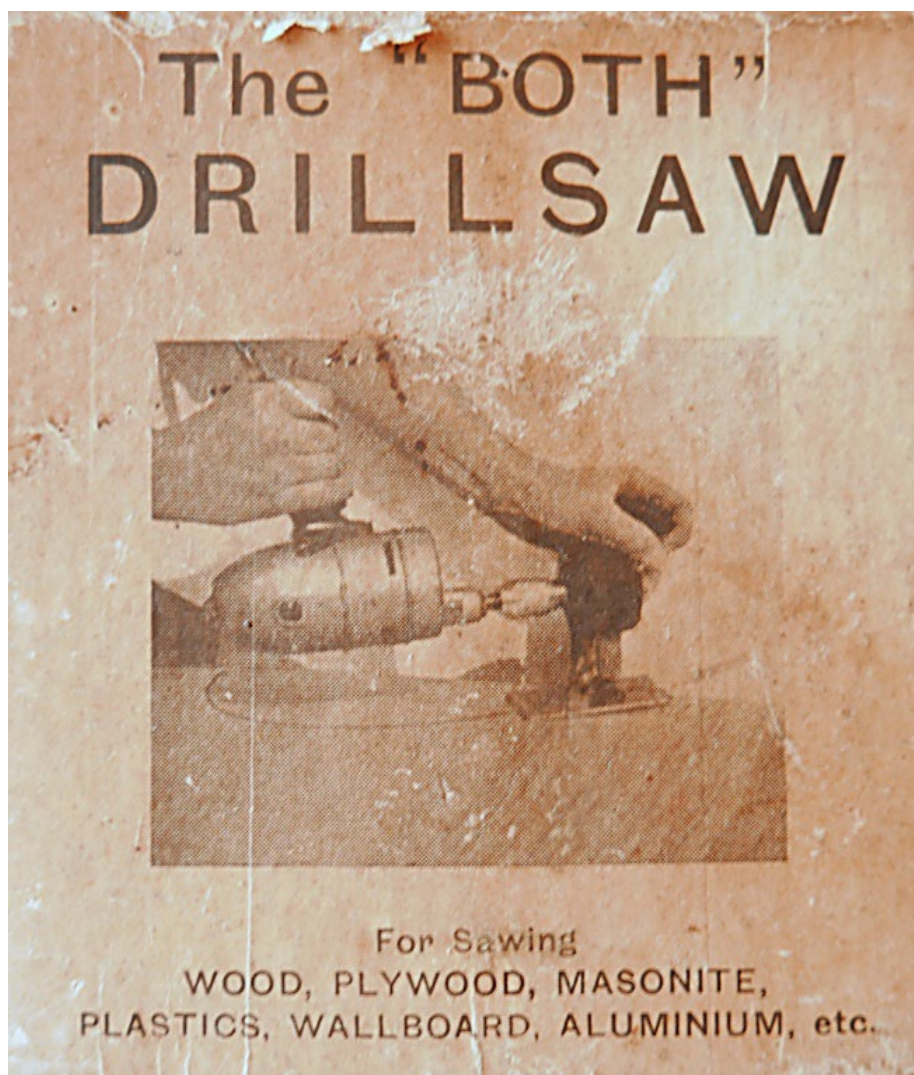


The Company History

Both Equipment Ltd was originally formed in Adelaide in the 1930s by brothers Edward (E.T.) and Donald Both. The company premises were in Tavistock Street, Adelaide.

Edward Thomas (Ted or E.T.) Both (1908-1987), inventor, was born on 26 April 1908 at Caltowie, South Australia, eldest of five children of South Australian-born parents James Alexander Both, miller, and his wife Lucy Victoria, née Thomas. He was educated at Caltowie Public and Jamestown High schools.

E.T. Both was a prolific inventor who devised equipment for everything from sporting events to Second World War weaponry. A very able student, Ted Both became a technical assistant to (Sir) Kerr Grant, professor of physics at the University of Adelaide. In 1932 Ted built a prototype for a portable electrocardiograph; Sir Kerr Grant impressed with his skills, helped Both to set up a small medical production facility using a room in an old police barrack attached to the university.



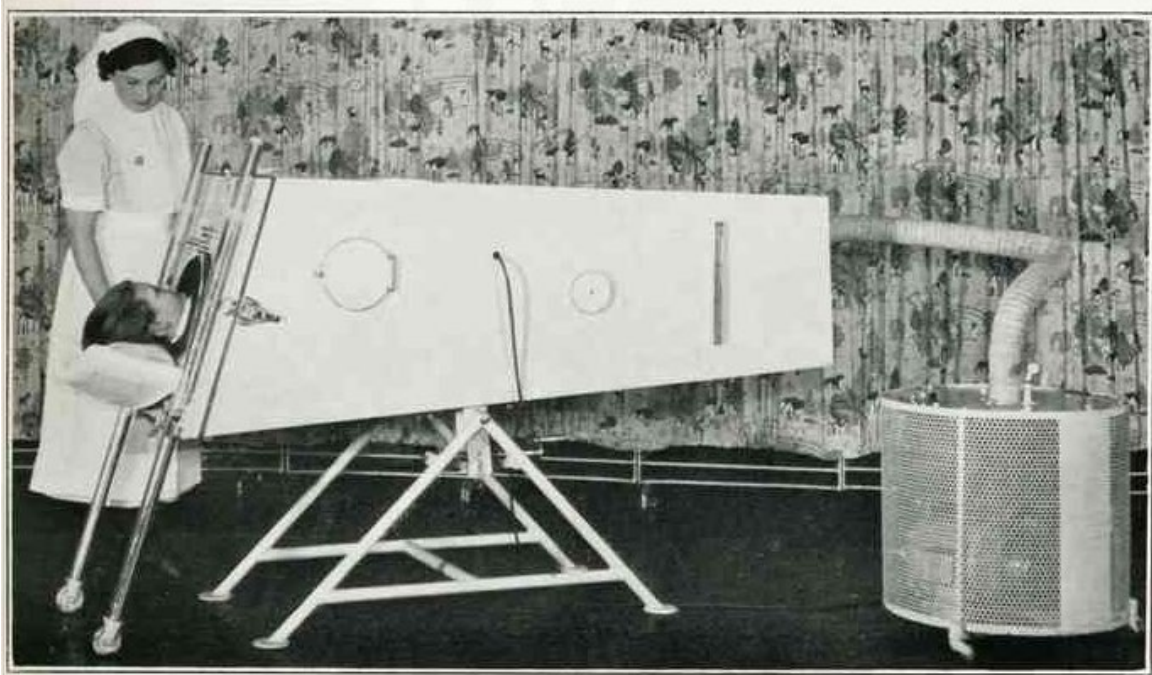


FIG. B.—The Both Respirator. Now manufactured and presented to hospitals by Lord Nuffield.

At his time at the university and the old police station annex Ted is joined by his younger brother Donald Both and together they launch their own company Both Equipment Ltd.

The Australian-made Both Electrocardiograph was the world's first direct writing instant diagnosis ECG and weighed a mere 14.5kg. It allowed instant diagnosis of a patient's ECG as previously ECGs were produced using a photographic method of recording. You had to wait for the results.

The Both brother's electrocardiograph enjoyed popularity within the medical community up until the late 1950's where its use persists, predominately in the country and areas without mains power.

Ted Both is most well-known for the 'Both' portable cabinet respirator, an inexpensive alternative to the Drinker 'iron lung' for paralysed poliomyelitis patients, first produced in Adelaide during the polio epidemics of the late 1930s.

“Australia's Edison”

Visiting England in 1938-39 during another poliomyelitis epidemic, Ted Both produced some respirators in London and attracted the attention of Lord Nuffield, who financed the assembly of 1700 machines at the Morris car factory, Cowley, and donated them to hospitals throughout the British Empire. Appointed OBE in 1941.

While in England Ted Both gained the popular title of 'Australia's Edison'.

In 1941 the Both brothers established Both Electrics Ltd.

In World War II Both brothers worked on projects supported by the Army Inventions Directorate, producing medical equipment for the armed forces, and inventing instruments for the production and testing of armaments, including an electro micrometer (used to check the bore of a gun), cloth-cutting machines for army uniforms, and three-wheeled battery-operated vehicles. They helped with research into guided torpedoes, and designed and patented the 'Visitel', an instrument that could transmit designs or drawings over long distances by wire or radio. It was a forerunner of the facsimile machine.



After the war Both brothers moved to Sydney, where they set up a branch of the business (Both Equipment Ltd from 1952) and worked in association with Automatic Totalisators Ltd. The Boths designed an electric tennis scoreboard for use at the Davis Cup competition, held in Adelaide in 1952. Their scoreboards were subsequently used for the Melbourne Olympic Games (1956) and other major events.

Other types of equipment developed were an automatic pen recorder, a humidicrib, foetal heart monitors and an electroencephalograph. In 1953 Donald Both submitted a design for the humidicrib to the Queen's Coronation Gift Committee and it was accepted as a gift on behalf of the people of South Australia.

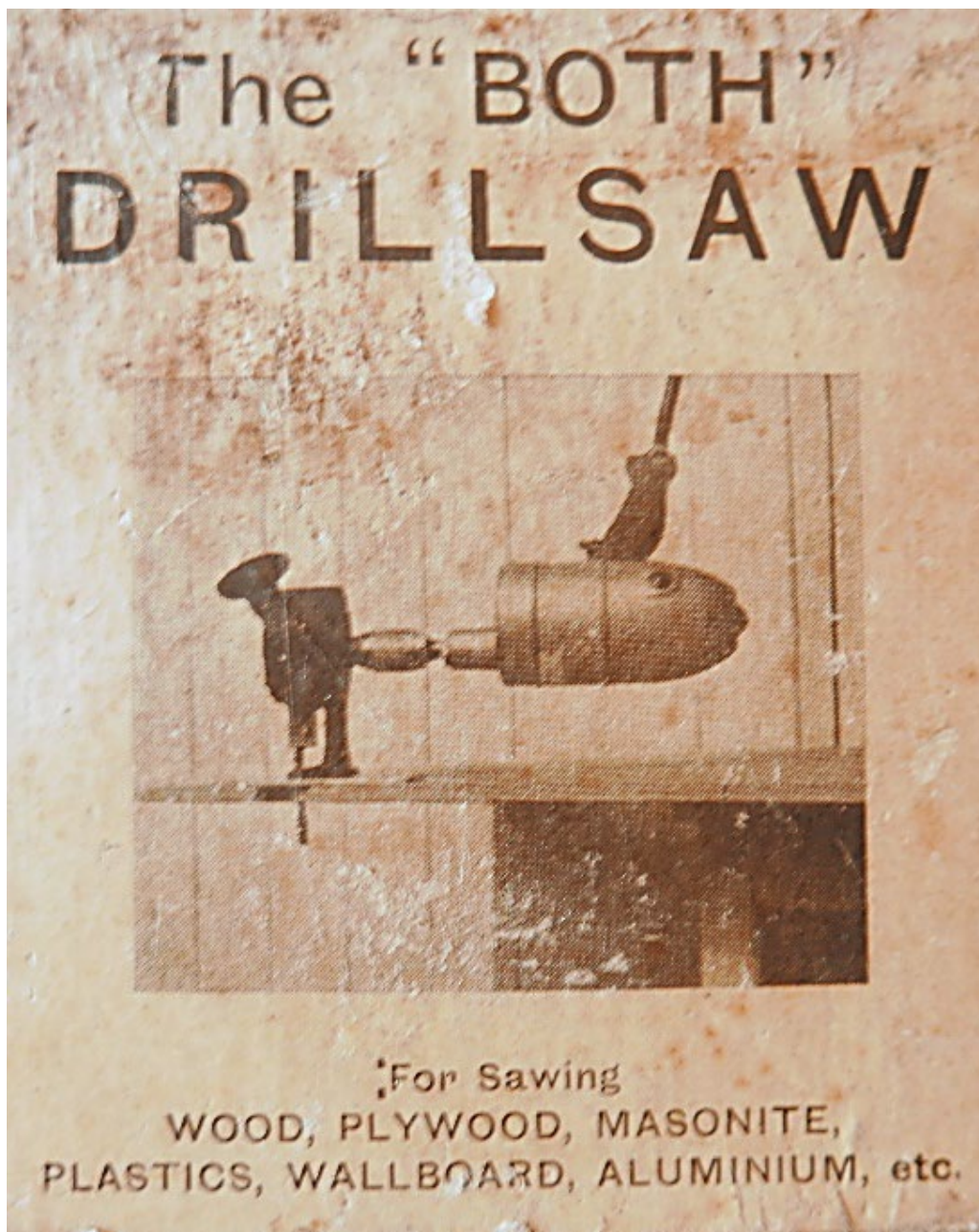
In 1966 the brothers sold their firm to Drug Houses of Australia Ltd; they worked in DHA's Anax Division until retiring in 1974.

A quiet-living man, 'ET' Both was known for his total preoccupation with design problems and his exhausting capacity for work.

‘ET’ Both was a sports enthusiast who enjoyed swimming and playing tennis. Survived by his wife, he died on 18 November 1987 at Mount Beauty, Victoria, and was cremated. The couple had no children. Further information about Donald Both has not been found.

(<https://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/both-edward-thomas-ted-12234>)

Well, What about the KBC Electric Drill?



John Deeble, TTTG’s resident power tool expert immediately identified the drill on the Drillsaw box as “*the very first KBC electric drill, later to become Lightburn. It had a ¼ inch capacity chuck. These were one of the first Australian power tools.*”

KBC or Ken Bowes & Co Ltd was based in South Australia and founded by Ken Bowes in the 1936. Ken started his business out of his home garage in Forestville, with 9 employees. But by 1938 KBC opened a factory in Woodlands Park and by 1949 it employed 90 people. Although the company produced domestic appliances such as a bean slicer and clothes ringer it was tool construction and die casting of military components such as ammunition parts (shell and bomb noses) and tank attack guns that kept the company quite busy during World War II.

After the war KBC continued with die casting making components such as motor body hardware and accessories (for example car door handles), automotive and aeroplane engine parts, and refrigerator hardware. During this post-war period KBC reintroduced its clothes wringer and bean slicer. By 1949 the company had produced 300,000 units of the bean slicer; clearly a popular product. KBC also added an assembly line and electric winding section to the Woodlands Park factory.

KBC's entry into the hardware market began in 1948 with the launch of the ¼" KBC electric drill. This drill was designed for the cabinet maker, metal or plastic worker, electrician, and general handyman. The body was made from die cast zinc alloy, about 185mm long. The drill weighed just under 2kg.

It is unclear exactly when KBC ceased operations, but two drills with similarities to the KBC drill appeared on the cover of a Lightburn catalogue in 1962 and a Lightburn employee is documented as demonstrating KBC drills in Queensland in 1965. KBC drills sold under the Lightburn brand were still available in 1972.

<http://powertoolstudy.blogspot.com/p/other.html?m=1>

Conclusion

It is fascinating to see how a simple garage find can lead to a wider appreciation of Australia's manufacturing past and reveal the not inconsiderable achievements of our nation's local and global manufacturing heroes.

Australian Power Tools

TTTG has a growing collection of early Australian Power Tools. After the next Tool Sale we will be "organising" the power tools.

What about a meeting on Australian Power Tools?

With John Deeble as the presenter. John has checked out the electrics and volunteers can try out the tools.

Worth attending, but if you can't we may go live on Zoom!

Cleaning Sharpening Stones

John Bates

Getting sharpening stones clean and keeping them that way is a perennial.

But is the free advice available online a goldmine or simply worth just what you paid for it?

John goes online

See what happened when one person went 'online' and asked a simple question:

"I have found a couple of manufactured oil (whet) stones, which, while not worn much, are just chocker with crud i.e. old oil and dirt. Has anyone ever tried cleaning these? I'm thinking of sticking them in a pot of water, outside on the primus stove and boiling them for a while. Any other suggestions?"

It appeared to start out quite innocently

You can boil the manufactured sharpening stones if they are really clogged. Use an old boiler and dump some laundry detergent into the water. Wrap the stone in a piece of rag and tie the rag onto the stone with some tie wire or similar. Get another piece of wire and hang the stone in the boiler so it doesn't touch the side or the bottom. Apply heat to the boiler and get the water boiling and let it boil for a few hours. Remove heat and let the whole thing cool down. If you remove the stone while it's hot and try and cool it, it will crack .It has to cool slowly.

Once this is done it will be clean and any oil in the stone will be gone. Use a mix of kero and engine oil for a lube when using the stone, and when finished let the stone soak in kero until the next use.

Someone suggested a most creative use of a 'Milo' tin

I've had great success cleaning filthy 'Carborundum' and oil stones by standing them in a tin of thinners. The tin is the type with the air-tight lid used for coffee or chocolate drink (read Milo), these keep the fumes in and ones' valuable thinners. After scrapping, wire brushing off the worst a good soak till no more came out, left a lovely grey stone, like new.

But it is hard to beat getting down and dirty with your stones

I agree that a long soak in kero will loosen any bunged up oil and dirt and swarf. I neglected to mention that in the flood of oil on my stones, they get wiped up with fresh oil and a good scrub after every gross sharpening session. Yes, it's messy but I don't sweat those things.

We may even learn a thing or two about ‘kero’

If they are oilstones, I have cleaned mine with kero.

Kero has no abrasive particles in it, nothing even so coarse as chromium green used in some honing compounds and in artist's oil and acrylic paints. I suspect, rather, that the kero lifts and suspends very, very small particles of crushed abrasive from the stones themselves.

Or can we?

Kero is an abrasive in its own right and when mixed in a ratio with light oil works well on an oil stone, wipe the stone down after use.

OK ‘kero’ is a non-abrasive abrasive. I get that now. It’s the properties of motor oil that I am having trouble with

Heavier motor oils will hold any swarf, in suspension when they are being used, but do not let them stay on the stone as when the volatiles evaporate, the heavy components of the oil will start to clog the stone surface, along with the swarf from sharpening.

I sharpen a bunch of different things and for each of my 3 grades of oil stone, I use automotive motor oil as it is non-drying. I nearly flood the stones to keep the swarf moving.

At least I know I must always use ‘kero’

Why? Because the apprentice told me so.

When I did my apprenticeship back in the mid-sixties as a smallgoods maker, I started out using oil on an oil stone, and was severely chastised by an older apprentice for using oil. “It's kero what you use, kero cleans the stone as you sharpen your knives” he says. Never used anything else since then. Worn out a few stones though.

Oh no! That first bit of advice was completely wrong! Quick, turn off the boiler....

Number one don't boil them!

Sadly, the old boiler must go but fortunately I can keep my ‘kero’

The kero solution ain't a bad idea, I've seen thousands upon thousands of grinding, wet, oil stones left to their own devices. Age isn't their friend. It all depends on how they have been stored.

.... and if I am really, really careful I won't change my stone to sand or glass

While it is easy to say clean it with a wet rag or boil it or rub kero on it, no worries; get your fingernail and scrape it longitudinally and see how much is left under your nail, you might have sandstone there now, so to speak. Or you might have a brittle as glass stone there.

And diamonds may also be a boy's best friend

If you can get your hands on an industrial diamond large enough (like ones used on mine raised drill shafts) that would take the surface off without compromising the stone any further.

So, just what kind of sharpening stone do I have here

All 5 of my Japanese fine grit stones are called water stones, not wet stones.

Generally synthetic stones are oilstones and natural stones, such as the Japanese stones are whetstones. In fact, the word "whetstone" is a completely made up thing. All sharpening stones were called "whetstones", "whet" means to sharpen a blade.

Most people seem to prefer to use water as a lubricant on natural stones and this usage has coined the term "whetstone". If you use oil on a natural stone, it will still work OK, but it will not be any good for use with water anymore. Natural stones are usually much softer and finer grit than synthetic stones.

Hang on don't throw away your old boiler just yet

Boiling an old stone, perhaps with some detergent, or as someone suggested, using a dishwasher, will certainly clean up an old stone, but oil will remain in the stone.

What if my stone is not flat?

If they require flattening use a sheet of Silicon Carbide grade 120 wet or dry laid on a flat plate and rub the stone over it till flat and clean. Kero can be used.

.... well not always

I have also a pair of Shapton ceramic stones 1000 grade and 4000 grade for woodworking tools and these are flattened the same way but using water as a lubricant. SEE WHAT THE COMPANY HAS TO SAY <https://shapton.co.jp/en/>

Sorry please explain again, what type of stone do I have?

Ok, I learn something new every day. Can you clarify this a bit for me; "I've seen the manufactured ones (as against natural stone) called oilstones, whetstones, sharpening stones etc." From your post I gather that there is a difference between oilstone and whetstone.

This person gets my vote for least best use of a pressure washer:

I hit mine with the pressure washer, need to keep it moving or you will blow holes in the stone.

Thank goodness I kept the 'kero'....

After cleaning the oilstones, you can prevent them crudding up again by using kero in the lubrication when sharpening. I use a kero and oil mix of around 5:1. I have found this to be very effective and I always wipe the stones clean after use to prevent evaporation and oil build up.

So, there you have it, all the answers to cleaning your sharpening stones. And you didn't have to leave the comfort of your lounge chair.

I'm so glad to be part of the digital revolution and people are just so helpful. See you online.

TTTG Real Skills Workshop

Sharpening Edge Tools

The best way to learn how to sharpen edge tools
Sharpening is covered in all the Planes and Chisels Workshops.

There will be a Using Planes and Chisels Workshop in August

The best sharpening stones are Norton Aluminium Oxide stones.
Australian Abrasives also made Aluminium Oxide stones.
There must be millions of old stones out there!
Second hand they sell for about \$5 when "smelling like an old boot".
The smell is caused by Neat's Foot Oil! The worst lubricant.

The best sharpening Oil is TTTG Sharp Oil

COVID cut the supply chain for one of the Sharp Oil ingredients.
Sharp Oil will again be available soon!

Book Review

Collecting Sidchrome Spanners: 1942 - 1991



I'd be willing to wager than anyone in Australia who has ever picked up a tool knows the brand Sidchrome. A brand as Australian as 'football, meat pies, kangaroos and Holden cars.' Hold a Sidchrome tool and you will want to own one; if you own just one then, over time, you will own more.

Collecting Sidchrome Spanners: 1942 to 1991 by Dick Lynch

This publication was launched on 20 November 2021. A full-colour, soft cover, A4 book of 514 pages it weighs in at a shade under 2.1 kilograms.

I bought my copy early in December 2021 and told Dick I would write a review, then promptly forgot. Sorry Dick!

Any number of superlatives really fails to do justice to this opus on Australia's favourite spanner. It is beautiful, it is comprehensive, it is without peer, and it is a triumph of authorship, challenging work, and demanding attention to detail. And the price; who cares?

I don't even collect spanners, but I knew I had to have a copy. It faithfully and painstakingly follows the birth and death of an Australian icon. Yes, you can still buy a new 'Sidchrome' spanner, but you cannot buy one made in Australia. Stanley took over the business and by 1999 had moved all production offshore.

For the spanner collector this book is an essential reference. It will solve every question you may have about Sidchrome tools and much more. Forget about trawling for old catalogues. All the data you need is now in one convenient place.

Dick's book is also a great companion volume to two books written by the late John Royston Siddons AO (1927 to 2016); *A Spanner in the Works* published in 1990 and *Finding the Balance* which came out in 2011. Any lover of the history of Australian industry and economic development owes it to themselves to acquire all three books.

Also, a vote of thanks to Graeme Plaw who, in 1999, saved the bulk of the historical documents which were the 'raw material' for this book from a skip. Congratulations to Dick who self-published this mighty work.

Want to buy a copy?

Contact Dick Lynch at dicklynch@gmail.com or call 0419 392 042

Got any Sidchrome collectors amongst our number? If so, then this may inspire you to draft an article or two about these fine tools.

John Bates
TTTG Secretary

- Sunday 03 July 2022 -

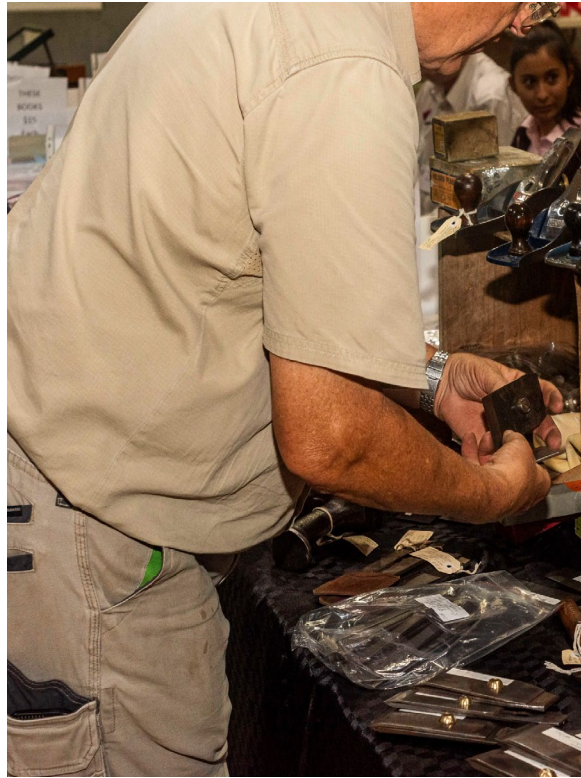
TTTG Workshop Tool Sale

TTTG Workshop at rear of Old East Wood Town Hall

Opens 8.30am ends around 12.00 noon

Several tables of old surplus tools, and magazines

Entry \$2



Everyone will find something at a bargain price

TTTG is over-stocked with old tools!

Buying Old Tools Online

Accurate descriptions and realistic prices

Since Hans Brunner ceased holding online tool auctions it has been difficult to find a benchmark for “what they will pay”.

When Hans Brunner sold regularly online his tool descriptions were accurate and prices realistic.

A business in Melbourne is now selling old tools online at

VINTAGE TOOL SHOP has been selling antique and vintage hand tools since 2012 in Melbourne, Victoria. Vintage Tool Shop also makes handsaws with local hardwood handles.

Have you visited the Vintage Tool Shop website? The NEWS would welcome a review of the Vintage Tool Shop.

TTTG “Real Skills” Workshops

The classes have a limit of six, don't miss out on a place, book early.

Past Workshops:

- April 2022 - *Chiselling Wood*
- May 2022 - *Using Routers and Trimmers*
- June 2022 - *Making Mouldings*

Remember:

- ✓ Sharp tools are provided
- ✓ Bring your own but ask “Is this sharp?”

Planned for August

- **Using Planes and Chisels**
- **Plane tuning and setting**

During this workshop, a “junk plane” will be fully tuned. The sharpening, and special steels myths debunked!

Available at all TTTG Meetings and Events

Best Leather Chisel Rolls

TTTG sells best quality ***Leather Chisel Rolls*** \$25

TTTG ***Sharp Oil*** \$6 a bottle

Also ***Chisel and Plane Handles*** \$10 each.

Eclipse 77 Saw Set for extra fine teeth

At every Saw Sharpening Workshop, the Eclipse Special is mentioned.

All the Tool Collectors mentions is an “77 Eclipse Saw Set for extra fine teeth.”

This comment is rebuffed by sceptics with “extra fine teeth aren’t set”.

John Deeble has found a reference in an Eclipse Catalogue.

Eclipse sold a conversion kit!

Taper pins and taper pin reamers

Just a note on buying taper pins and taper pin reamers. The IMPERIAL standard for taper pins is a nice round ¼" on diameter per foot, or 1 in 48. However, the METRIC standard is a nice round 1 in 50. The two are quite close, but not the same. If the application matters, BEWARE.

Worth Reading

Hugh McKid

Fine Woodworking

Issue 293 February 2022. 82 pages, 5 articles

Hank Gilpin starts with some very exquisitely designed tables in his article “Rails and stretchers – it’s all about strength, style and intrigue”. An article really about design and finesse and fineness in design.

Then its David Lamb in a detailed article on making a pedestal dining table - it’s not going to fall over, finely crafted and old school joinery techniques – this piece will see out the maker.

Next is Bob Van Dyke with “An Instructor’s Guide to Glue” culminating in 5 essential glues for the workshop – a PVA yellow glue, liquid hide glue, urea formaldehyde, epoxy, and cyanoacrylate, each with a particular gluing purpose – pity most of the brands are probably not in Australia.

Then there is Jonathan Brower with “Mosaic Cutting Boards” using your offcuts.

Garrett Hack’s “Developing a Furniture Style” begins at the fundamental starting step of all creative endeavours – developing the skill of seeing and understanding what you are seeing (he doesn’t say much or anything about the next step – developing the ability to draw what you see). He follows on with what has influenced him over the past twenty plus years.

Tom McLaughlin finishes off with a detailed “Make and Fit a Dovetailed Drawer”. Tom is old school, and this is a good, base skill article – lots of hand skills and precision woodworking.

In *Greenwood*, Curtis Buchanan delivers Part 2 of making a Windsor chair – love it! Hand tools only, from log to chair.

And *from the bench*, on the last page, Karen McBride relates a story of her being a young IT worker sharing an office with a pathologist from Australia 30 years ago – he happens to be (the now very eminent) Dr Ian Wilkie who happens to be a very adept and keen woodworker. Ian made Karen’s first work bench. Apparently, the entire pathology lab and post-mortem crew arrived to see its delivery.

Australian Wood Review

Issue 114 March 2022. 82 pages, 8 articles

Karl Holtey, Mark Martinez, Brian Shugarue, Mike Subritzky/Jim Anderson on the art of toolmaking – these are serious toolmakers and somehow, whilst our TTTG membership would appreciate the Rolls Royce approach, we prefer to drive the Datsun (OK the Hilux).

Lots of girls getting into woodwork – Alex Pontonia features with her ideas and processes – finely designed, well-crafted and very good.

And Robert Howard – is there a finer craftsman in Australia? Delicate, unusual, and totally bewildering to be carved from wood. Patience, perseverance with a bit of obsession.

Then follows the White Oak Project – a sculpture job involving trees and chainsaws and Carol Russell carving animals and birds in her hand.

Read it, liked it, why not write a review?

Chances are other TTTG members may also be interested

Consider writing a review for NEWS

TTTG “Real Skills” Workshops

Old Eastwood Town Hall
74 Agincourt Road, Marsfield

Refreshments provided, but bring your lunch

\$60 per person Limited to 6 Enrol online: www.tttg.org.au

Also available at TTTG Real Skills Workshops

Old Tools:

- Sort through the junk table and make an offer - TTTG needs the space
- Good user old tools at reasonable prices
- Tools for repair at reasonable prices or “make an offer”

Plane Handles and Knobs - Stanley type \$10 each

Citric Acid \$5 a jar

Sharp Oil \$6 a bottle

Hand Cut Dovetails

Sunday 17 July 2022

TTTG “Real Skills” Workshop

Old Eastwood Town Hall
74 Agincourt Road, Marsfield

Check in by 9am

Refreshments provided but bring your lunch!

Fee \$60

Limited to 6

Enrol online: www.tttg.org.au

Making dovetail joints with traditional tools

- Sharpening a dovetail saw and chisels for cutting dovetails
- Setting out dovetails with a simple template
- Dovetail pitch and making templates
- Using the cutting gauge
- Using the dovetail saw
- Using the coping saw
- Using the chisels
- Assembling dovetail joints

The techniques for fast stress-free dovetailing.

You don't need expensive jigs, Japanese saws, or chisels.

- *The essential tools are a sharp pencil, dovetail template and*
- *Back saw, Cutting Gauge, Coping Saw, bevel edge Chisels*

Dovetailing doesn't take days!



This workshop busts the dovetailing myths!

Wood and sharp tools are provided at the workshop

The Next TTTG Tool Sales

Remember these dates

- *Sunday 14 August 2022*
- *Sunday 4 December 2022*

Remember the location

**Old Eastwood Town Hall
74 Agincourt Road, Marsfield, NSW**

Remember the entry fee is

- *\$5 per person*

Remember table hire is

- *\$25 per table*



THE TOOL SHOP THAT HAS IT ALL



METAL WORKING



WOOD WORKING



WELDING EQUIPMENT



WORKSHOP EQUIPMENT



STORAGE SOLUTIONS



AUTOMOTIVE & RESTORATION



LIFTING & HANDLING



HAND TOOLS



MEAT PROCESSING EQUIPMENT



MACHINE TOOL ACCESSORIES



MEASURING EQUIPMENT

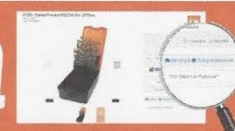


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Specifications & Prices are subject to change without notification. All prices include GST and valid until 31-10-20