



April 2009 Chapter auction report.

I am pleased to say that this years auction was the best ever result for our annual auctions, total sales were \$22,338.00 on two hundred and thirty eight items. This exceeded our previous best by \$7,362.00. Interestingly the highest price paid for an item was only \$950.00 for a Junghans 'Onion Boy' swinger. Generally, the average prices achieved were higher on all items as well.



Thanks to Alan Hazelton who did a great job as auctioneer.

Also the attendance must be a record there were seventy people at the auction with fifty eight bidding numbers issued, this did put a strain on the lunch time catering as not every one had let us know they were coming, even so I think Jennifer did a great job with the catering.



An event like this is only successful because of the large number of volunteers that come to help, Bill Meeken and Chris Nurser did a lot of work prior to the auction sorting out the items and producing the auction catalogue, and I am sure all vendors were happy to receive their cheque within a few days of the auction.

Once again Jeff Durston (the good looking one of the two), lent us his display partitions again this year. And to all the others that set-up the tables and chairs, held up the items, checked out at the end, and cleaned up - a big thank you.

Martin Willis, President.



To: Sir John Bennett
London

Sir, since my tall clock was sent to your establishment to be cleaned it has struck the hours with great reluctance and after enduring internal agonies of a most distressing nature it has now ceased striking altogether.

Though a happy release for the clock, this is not convenient to the household.

If you can send down a confidential person with whom the clock can confer I think it may have something on its works that it would like to make a clean breast of.

Sincerely Yours,
Charles Dickens
Gad's Hill Place, Higham,
Kent

The contents of the letter reproduced on this page was supplied by Alan Emmerson. The typeface used is Zapfino Regular.

President's Report June 2009.

Dear Members, when you read this report we will be half way through the year already. I'm pleased to say we have had a lot of positive feedback regarding the meetings and workshops, as you know we have another special workshop planned for the 19th & 20th September with Lindsay Bramall. This is continuing on with 400 day clocks and the Bullé battery clock. Places are filling for this workshop so if you are interested please contact Bill De Kaste on 07 3824 1353. Bill has re-joined the management committee as assistant workshop co-ordinator.

We are always looking for presenters for our general meetings with interesting topics so if you can fill a 5 or 10 minute spot please let me know. You might talk about your favorite watch maker, clock maker or project. Just don't keep your activities a secret, share your horological knowledge please?

Our workshop lunch time talks are always informative, you don't have to come to fix a clock just drop in for lunch and have a chat.

Our trial full colour newsletter has been very well received, so we will be continuing the rest of this year in colour. As you can appreciate this is considerably more expensive to print than black & white so to offset the costs we have sold advertising space in this issue of the Mainspring. This measure has been enthusiastically supported by these businesses so I hope you will support them when requiring parts or services.

This has only been possible due to the expertise of our editor; Malcolm Enright who has spent quite a considerable amount of time organizing the Mainspring layout and production artwork through to printing and mailing out to all the membership. I hope that this greatly enhanced newsletter will give our chapter a better profile thus attracting more publicity and new members.

As we will not be sending out a newsletter before a general meeting, those members that have e-mail will be sent a copy of the previous general meeting minutes and a copy of the meeting program. For those members that don't have e-mail, a copy of the minutes and meeting program will be

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8



FRANCIS ABBOTT PROVIDED FREE RIDE TO AUSTRALIA.

England's penal system has produced some remarkable individuals none more so than Francis Abbott clock and watchmaker, astronomer and meteorologist.

Francis Abbott in August 1844 appearing in the Central Criminal Court in Manchester was sentenced to seven years transportation to Hobart Town for obtaining two watches under false pretences.

Francis had been born 12th August 1799 in Derby England the son of John Abbott and wife Elizabeth. It is believed he was an apprentice to John Whitehurst of Derby a well known clockmaker who was the inventor of tell-tale clocks. In 1825 he married Mary Wolley and in the following years they had seven children. In 1828 in Derby he wrote a book called 'The Management of Public Clocks'. Abbott's business in Derby lasted until 1831 when he relocated to Manchester where he ran a successful watch and clock making and astronomical machinery business. This lasted until 1844 when his life changed forever. He arrived by boat in Australia in June 1845 where he served one year with the Oyster Cove gangs and three years as an assigned servant.

Being freed on the 27th March 1849 he set up his clock and watch making business in Murray Street Hobart where he expanded his talents to photography and the supply and repair of optical and other instruments. Mary, his wife and some of the children, were granted free passage to join him in Hobart

and arrived in 1850. There his three sons earned prominent positions and became respected members of Tasmanian society.

Abbott made and erected many public clocks, the most noted would have been the Government House clock established in 1859.

Abbott had become involved with the Rossbank Observatory while still a prisoner, as it closed in 1854 and now being a free man Abbott established his own observatory at his home. He documented Hobart's weather from 1841 to 1879 and his recorded observations were published by the Royal Society of Tasmania and were funded by the Government.

His observatory included a small Transit Telescope and Astronomical Clock and for thirty years he also provided *a local time service.

In 1882 the Government opened the Hobart Observatory as Abbott's old age had forced him to give up his work as an Astronomer and Meteorologist and his public clock work which had covered the period 1855 to 1880.

From the Librarian, Jeff Dyer.

Picture top left shows Francis Abbott (1799 - 1883), by unknown photographer, c1860, courtesy of Allport Library and Museum of Fine Arts, State Library of Tasmania. AUTAS001125299883

Plate IV. below is from the Editor's own copy of The Sidereal Heavens and other subjects connected with Astronomy by Thomas Dick, c1840, showing locations of "Abbott's little friends in the southern sky". *More in the Show'nTell section.

1831 Honorary member of the Antiquarian and Chronological Society of London.

1838 'A treatise on the Management of Public Clocks' published in London.

1844 Sentenced to seven years transportation by Central Criminal Court in England.

1845 Arrived in Hobart Town, Tasmania.

1849 Received a ticket-of-leave and started watch and clockmaker business in Murray Street, Hobart.

1850 Wife and family granted free passage to Hobart.

1854-1880 Began recording meteorological observations which were published in 'Proceedings of the Royal Society of Tasmania'.

1855 Member of the Royal Society of Tasmania.

1859 Government House clock erected.

1860 Fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society, London.

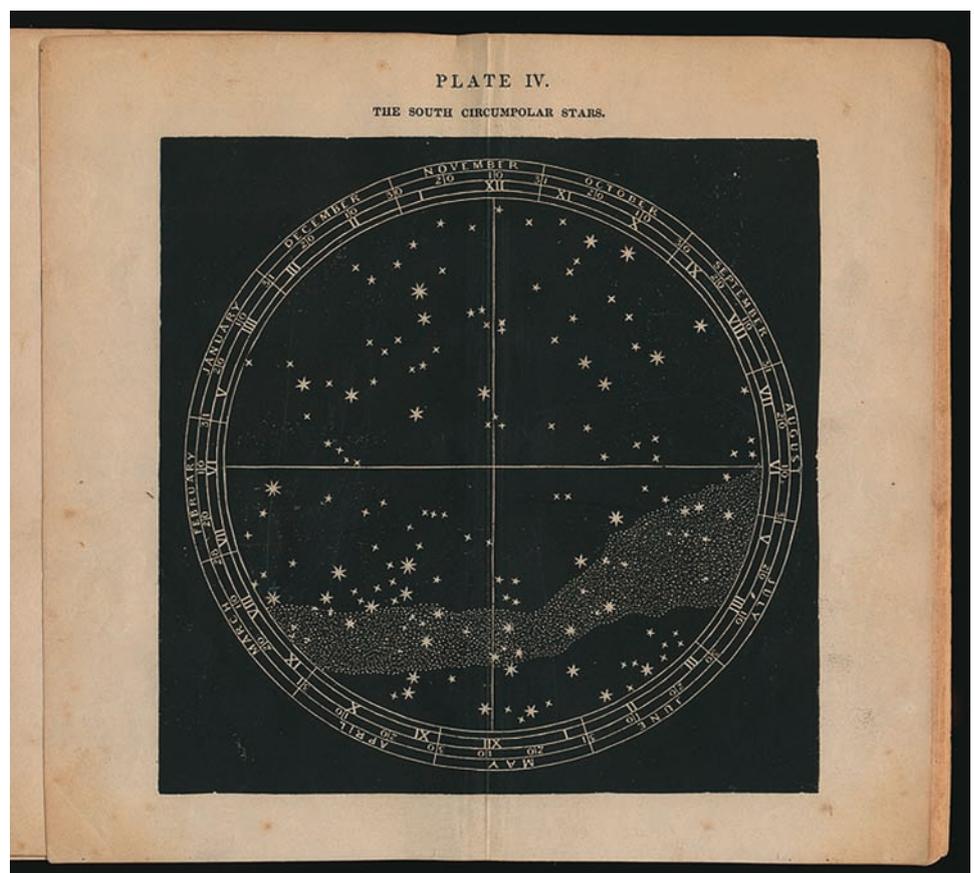
1861 Life member and councilor of the Royal Society of Tasmania.

1869 Fellow of the Royal Meteorological Society.

1878 'Modern Astronomy' published in Hobart.

1879 'Resume on Modern Astronomy' published in Hobart.

1880 'Siderereal Systems of Modern Astronomy, Multiple Suns and far off Worlds' published in Tasmania.



Show'nTell - let's start by continuing the Abbott story.

Warwick Oakman - Architectural historian & antique dealer from Battery Point has sent the following:

Francis Abbott maintained the regulator that the Hobart gun was set by - the regulator was housed at Leumeah in Hampden Road, Battery Point. It would trigger an electric charge that caused a weight to drop at the Battery Point signal station, that would fire the gun. All Hobart set their watches by the midday gun throughout the 19th century.

There is a Francis Abbott bracket clock recently gifted to 'Runnymede' it has his name painted on the dial, but is a standard Thwaites and Reed made, London bracket movement, sent out blank and then the dial painted. I know of a cedar cased, domestic regulator by Abbott in a private midlands farmhouse that has a locally made movement.

Abbott lived for a while at Islington, in upper Davey Street, there is a lovely image of him in the archives office of Tasmania Library surrounded by his family, in the garden of his Murray Street house, also surrounded by his scientific instruments.

I had a very fine electroplated and fretted panel that he made for the 1862 Melbourne exhibition. He had plated it and electrically fretted and engraved it.

I don't think he made many clocks as they weren't economic to make in those days in Tasmania, compared with the cost of mid century mass produced imports, such as those by Thwaites and Reed.

This seems to confirm Mike Ward's original concerns about the bracket clock he has in his possession. How does a typical English made, Mid 19th century bracket clock, signed to rear of dial John Barnes 43 Lime Street, finish up with Abbott & Son, Hobart Town painted on the dial? According to Brittens, John Barnes was located at this address between 1856-1861. Mike has also searched the London Census for the year 1861 and reports that the household members numbered 17 people at the address, 9 of whom were employees, some enterprise. Furthermore Mike's timeline shows us that Francis Abbott, sentenced 1844, transported 1845, freed 1849 and was re-united with his wife in 1850. Three of his

sons trained as watch/clock makers; Charles was 26 and Alfred 12 upon arrival in 1850. Edward was 41 when he arrived much later in 1869. Did he make it using a dial from Lime Street? Did he arrive with the case? Or at some stage was the clock, shown below merely retailed by Abbott & Son?



Readers might also remember the issue of Clocks Magazine from August 1985, there was a four page article by D. D. West interviewing George Hamburger of Clocks of Distinction, Hunters Hill, Sydney.

The discussion included long snippets of Abbott's life and his criminal achievements, it also mentions an arched bracket clock restored by Karl Parker with this statement "this is the only known bracket clock by Abbott." I have scanned and uploaded the 4 page article in .pdf form to my server, you are welcome to download from: <http://www.co-opones.to/male/viewer/images/ClocksofDistinction-4pager.pdf>

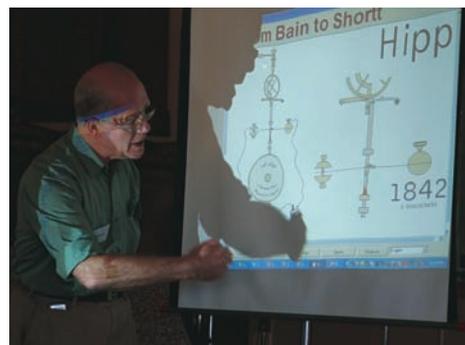


Alan Hazelton shows us another wall clock above from his 'Bragg Book', a huge 24" dial clock signed on the dial, P. C. Abbott, Hobart. He says P. C. was Abbott's grandson,

Hazelton adds that he sold this monster a couple of years ago, locally, to an Australiana collector.

Presentation summary of Workshops, Sunday 17 May 09.

Picture below shows Norman Heckenberg explaining the action of a Hipp toggle with the aid of one of Ted Bosscheiter's 125 electric clock animations (From Bain to Shortt). Norm later showed animations of Prouds electric clocks specially made by Ted after a visit to Brisbane in 08.



Basic wheel cutting.

The three basics you must know for cutting a wheel are; diameter of wheel called the PCD or pitch circle diameter, the module you are going to use plus the number of teeth. From any two of these, the third can be found by using the formula $\text{Module} = \text{PCD} / (\text{number of teeth} + 2)$. Having found the cutting module a machine is needed which rotates the cutter at right angles to the wheel blank and will pass through the blank cutting one tooth at a time.

A dividing plate can be used to index the number of teeth required and by advancing one division at a time the required number of teeth can be cut.

Neil Herbert and his Mk1 below.



Collecting and Research.

Research implies collecting information but not necessarily clocks, but inevitably this occurs as is the case in the photo shown on the right. This clock was given to us and there is no doubt that it would have been sent to the scrap heap had we not said that we would like it.

The pendulum rod turned up with a bunch of other rusty pendulum rods, at an auction of the same collection some two years later.

Both the movement and the pendulum are marked with the letter F. The large wheel at the bottom which revolves once every 24 hours and activates the switch to the right, is marked made by G Gough Rivers Street Bellevue Hill Sydney.

After the auction mentioned above, Norm purchased two more of these wheels from a junk box. The movement is a Hipp toggle electromechanical movement driving hands through motion work on the front side of the movement.

The pendulum impulse system is essentially the same as we have seen on Prouds master and tower clocks from Sydney. All steel parts are very rusty and the brass appears to have been exposed to a salty atmosphere. A thought is that this and other similar clocks may have been located at Sydney Harbour ferry terminals.

Who is G Gough? George Gough was a clock maker who worked for Prouds and some literature credits George with the pendulum impulsing arrangement in the photo. This has not been confirmed, and there is no English or Australian patent that has been located nor has there been any similar system found in other clocks of this period. Prouds produced electromechanical master, tower and slave clocks from 1912 till the late 1930s.

We have several documents bearing George's name and his association with Prouds, but none are reliably cross referenced.

We believe that he was associated with a company, Stacey & Co., of Queanbeyan who tendered for the installation of a clock system in Canberra in 1926. He also gifted an electric master clock and slave to a person in the 1970s which were later passed to the Powerhouse Museum in 1998. A G. Gough is registered living in Rivers Street, Bellevue Hill in 1917/18. We think that the clock in the photo dates from a later period,

late 20s early 30s, based on the design of back plates of Prouds clocks which changed to this basic shape during this time.

A search of the Sands Directories (1) 1916–1928 for N.S.W. at this time is presently inconclusive and we will provide an update as information comes to hand. We have yet to examine the N.S.W. Electoral Rolls and phone directories which will give us a further idea of George's whereabouts and hopefully find his date of birth and death.

What makes researching Australian electrical clocks fun, is that as they are relatively recent, the historical data is available, although it not always in an easily obtainable or in a readable format. Research can be time

consuming, but the end results are always interesting, costs much less than buying clocks and you meet some interesting characters along the way as well. So if you are interested in broadening your horological interest and knowledge, please talk to us.

Tony Roberts and Norman Heckenberg.

1. Sands Directories were produced yearly in N.S.W. between 1858–1933. The directories contain a myriad of information including alphabetical listing, listing by street and listing by profession. They are on microfiche and available at the Queensland State Library.



JULY 2009

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AUGUST 2009

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31						

SEPTEMBER 2009

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OCTOBER 2009

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NOVEMBER 2009

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DECEMBER 2009

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Chapter 104 Program to date for 2009.

From Secretary & Workshop Co-ordinator Paul Hutchinson, input from assistant Workshop Co-ordinator Bill De Kaste.

 Sun 5 July 2009. Workshop. Demonstration, Tony Roberts: Mainsprings, let down, removal, spring winder, cleaning and lubrication, reinstallation in clock. Lunchtime Talk, Henry Braun: Matching replacement mainsprings and choosing suitable spring where the correct size of the mainspring is unknown. These two topics will compliment each other.

 Sun 2 August 2009. General Meeting.

 Sun 13 September 2009. Workshop. Demonstration, Jim Dunn: Veneering and veneer repair. Lunchtime talk, Bill Meeken: 400-Day clocks, some of their history, collecting 400-day clocks, comments about some of the rare and valuable clocks. This talk will be a lead up to the Special workshop.

 Sat 19 and 20 September 2009. The second special Workshop, Lindsay Bramall: A two day workshop. Location: The Balmoral Bowls Club, Morningside 9.00 am for 9.30 start & concluding at 4.30 pm. Saturday: Lindsay will demonstrate the dismantling and rebuilding of a pin pallet and a deadbeat escapement including detailed set up of the top end. Sunday: In the morning those members who attended on Saturday will be able to get personal advice on their clocks. The afternoon will be devoted to battery electric clocks. Members are encouraged to bring their battery electric clocks, all makes. Names such as Bullé, Tiffany, Eureka, ATO, Schatz, and Junghans are amongst the names we hope to see. Attendance on Saturday is a prerequisite for Sunday. Cost \$25.00 - lunch included. Booking and prepayment is essential. Last year the workshop presented by Lindsay was fully booked, bookings are first come, first served.

 Sun 4 October 2009. General Meeting.

 Sun 1 November 2009. Workshop. Demonstration, Mervyn Whittenbury : Dismantling, cleaning and reassembly pocket watch. Lunchtime talk. Martin Willis: Electrical safety in the home workshop.

 Sun 6 December 2009. Christmas Party. (Held at the Balmoral Bowls Club) *Booking deadline - Sun 15 November 2009.

 17 January 2010. Workshop. Demonstration, Tony Roberts: Cleaning and polishing a black marble/slate clock. Lunchtime talk, Norman Heckenberg: Using a beat setting instrument.

General Meetings are normally conducted at the Chermside Library, Hamilton Rd, Chermside commencing at 12.30 pm and concluding at approximately 4.00 pm. Mart items should be set up for 12:30 pm start. Afternoon tea & coffee is provided but please bring a plate to share. Please bring interesting new items for show and tell as this segment proves to be most popular.

Workshop and Special Interest Group Meetings are normally conducted at the Balmoral Bowls Club, Jean Howie Drive (off Wynum/Bennetts Road), Morningside commencing at 9.30 am & concluding at 4.30 pm. Bring lunch, morning and afternoon tea provided, but please bring a plate to share.

Password for Chapter Web Site:
The Chapter web site address is <qldclocksandwatches.org.au> Certain parts of the website are for members only. The password for this area is <<qldclocks>> Currently there are only newsletters in this area.

Gordon O'Donohue Special Workshop Report 24 May 09.

Paul Hutchinson welcomed Gordon and the workshop got under way at 9.20 am. The attendance of twenty-one in all made for a very successful meeting. From our experience last year with the 400-day workshop and now this workshop, it seems that for instructional meetings of this nature there is a need to limit the group to about twenty (give or take a couple) in order to give everyone the best opportunity to see what is going on and allow for full participation.

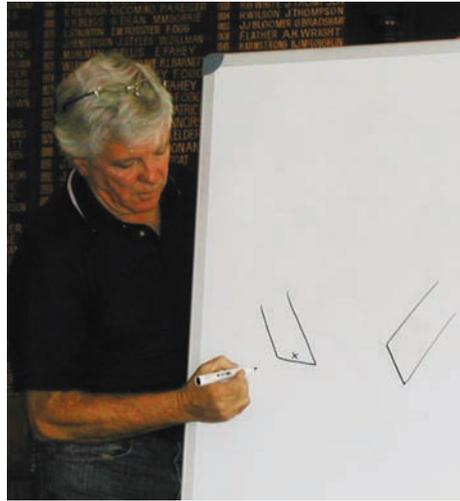
Southeast Queensland had been experiencing heavy rains and flooding, but the weather had cleared for our day. Those coming from the North, (Caboolture) and to the West, (Toowoomba) experienced no problems but one member coming up from Evans Head NSW was held up by flood waters.

Gordon prepared excellent handouts, one for each member and an additional library copy. In all there are thirty seven pages crammed full of very useful information. There are two pages of internet sites of interest to amateur clockmakers. I haven't had time to look at them all yet but will look at all of them eventually. There is a great deal of useful information to be retained for reference.

Two books in particular were recommended; 'Watch and Clock Escapements' by Gazeley and 'Repairing Old Clocks and Watches' by Anthony J. Whiten. I have the first one in my library and it is excellent, the second is on my shopping list as of today. Another book highly recommended by one of the members is 'Practical Clock Escapements' by Laurie Penman, it is somewhat more expensive, but apparently very easy to follow and understand.

We stopped for a fifteen minute break at 10.15 am, mixed and mingled, enjoying each others company.

Gordon also brought a large model of a lever escapement and by moving the pallets in or out he was able to clearly demonstrate the locking, impulse, drops and run to banking. This was a very useful teaching aid and much of the information can be transferred to other escapements. This part of the lecture coupled with the notes will be of assistance to many of us.



Here Gordon explains the locking faces of the pallets. The unlocking, the angles of the pallets and the effect in the impulse. Excessive depth of locking also increases friction and is sometimes used to compensate for an over-strong spring.

Lubrication was covered in detail and various types of oils were discussed with the use of multiple grades through-out the movement. The amount of lubricant is very important and this was stressed. Gordon has a personal preference for synthetic oil.

One member has a preference to run certain parts of a watch dry. The merits of this were discussed also.

Lunch break was called at 1.00 pm for an hour. The lunch was excellent and our thanks to Ken Durston who made the arrangements and collected the food.

After lunch and before going into the anchor (recoil) and deadbeat escapements, a number of questions were taken on a range of topics related to the morning lecture.

The causes and effects of worn pallets were discussed along with some methods of repair and re-adjustment. Along with some of the pitfalls of using the in-correct methods were also covered. Lubrication in respect to the escape wheel and pallets was discussed. Again here, there are different schools of opinion for the best results.

The choice of springs, just simply replacing an old spring with a modern spring of the same size can be the wrong thing to do.

Gordon talked about some modern materials used in watches; some appear an unlikely choice to some of us. Silicon hair springs for example.

The Chapter wishes to express our thanks to Gordon for his time and effort.

Paul Hutchinson & Bill De Kaste.

The Watch Observer.

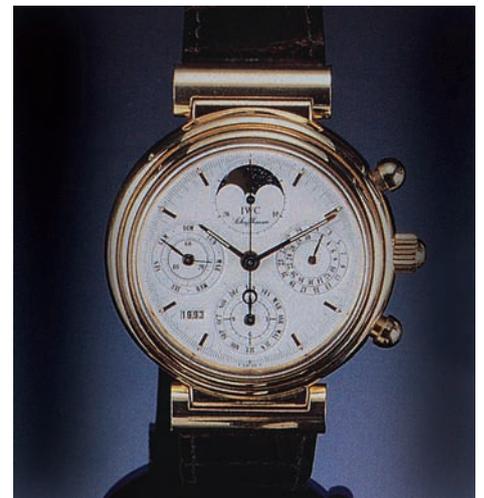
(IWC) International Watch Company. IWC was founded by an American, Florentine Aristo Jones in 1869. The factory was located in Schaffhausen on the banks of the Rhine river in the German-speaking north-east of Switzerland. Whilst F. A. Jones established the factory, it was Dr. Carl Gustav Jung who came up with the name International Watch Company.

F. A. Jones (1841-1916) had previously worked for the Howard Watch and Clock Company in Roxbury, Massachusetts U.S.A. before moving to Switzerland. IWC wristwatch introduction dates:
1899 First gents wristwatch
1939 Pilot watch for civil aviation
1940 Big pilots watch produced for the German Luftwaffe - 100 units
1942 Portugese wristwatch based on a pocket watch movement
1940 Mark x supplied to R.A.F.
1948 Mark xi supplied to R.A.F. and other commonwealth air forces
1955 'Ingenieur' watch designed to operate in high electrical fields
1978 Compass watch designed by F.Porsche
1980 Titanium chronograph
1982 Ocean 2000 divers watch
1993 Release of Portugese anniversary watch

As far as collecting goes, IWC watches were not produced in large numbers and are not as frequently encountered as other Swiss brands eg Omega. IWC has always been a high end watch and a quick look at new IWC prices show that quality does not come cheap.

Members were invited to bring along any IWC dead or alive to the June Chapter General Meeting. There were a few reviewed and a lively discussion followed.

Compiled by Tony Manton.



available to read at the meeting prior to commencement.

Other information such as subscription renewal and nominations for the AGM will be posted to all members at the appropriate time.

Lindsay Bramall has been running a WANTED/SELL facility called e-sell, this is available to all chapter members that have an e-mail address. This initiative has been very successful so if you would like to use this facility please e-mail your copy request to me and I will pass it on. Page 16 has a further update from Paul Hutchinson, so do take the time to read and follow the due process set down by Lindsay.

It is important that we maintain an up-to-date data base so if you change any of your details will you please let the Secretary know?
Regards, Martin Willis.

Workshop Sunday 5 July 09.

Twenty four members attended with apologies from Bill DeKaste, Martin Willis, Chris Nurser and Norman Heckenberg.

A new member Chris Lord spent some time with Greg Baker, Mervyn Whittenbury and Tony Manton and enjoyed a discussion about (predictably) watches.

Chris Lord has built what he refers to as a 'Large pocket watch' and will bring it along to Show'nTell at our next General Meeting.

Bill Meeken helped Paul Ferris who was working on what looked like a matched pair of miniature Kundo 400-day clocks. Close examination showed that there were subtle differences. Bill was also very busy helping Jeff Dyer with a cantankerous Atmos clock.

Bill Tree and Henry Braun compared almost similar issues with two circular plated French movements on stands, Bill will report on his efforts at the next Workshops, he says.

Allan Roberts assisted Paul Hutchinson who was seeking advise on veneering and general info on the restoration of a Gustav Becker regulator case.

Ken Durston was busy helping some new members with their clocks.

Members made use of Workshops time to return and book out volumes from the library. Mainspring Editor, Malcolm Enright was busy drumming up articles from some of his authors & planning articles, adverts while

Tony Manton confirmed to him that Bulova will be the next watch maker under the spotlight at the next General Meeting.

Two informative lunch time talks:

Henry Braun set out to elaborate on 'motive power' and the way throughout history it has changed our materials and industrial culture.



Henry has researched and did show us charts that document this progression. He also described his method of matching clock springs and tabled his homemade spring tester.

He explained that while two springs may exhibit similar dimensions they may have very different properties. He illustrated this point with his comparison of some old springs with springs made by modern methods, describing the subtle differences between modern springs. To help him choose the most suitable replacement he has a very unusual tool, a torque controlled screwdriver, shown below.



This can be preset to provide a required torque at which point it will slip and so limit the torque, no one else at the meeting had seen one of these tools. The strength of a replacement spring is tested by putting the spring in a barrel and winding it with the previously set torque screwdriver. To assist his work Henry has made contact with a large number of clock manufactures and obtained their specified torque for

various clocks which he has continued to update. This was a new approach to the assembled members, finally the old issue of grease vs oil was the only sticking point.



Tony Roberts took an interested group of members through a very comprehensive instruction on clock springs, explaining and demonstrating the 'science' of spring let-down, spring repair and spring preparation prior to being reassembled into the barrel or between plates. Tony's travelling kit included a lifetime's collection of used springs - useful for demonstrating most all of the issues a clock maker will encounter. His home made let-down tool with do's & dont's plus his variants made for different key sizes or winding arbors.



Lots of laughs amongst the serious side of safety and the need to make captive those open springs using his patented (fluro) watch bands he dispenses so freely. Winding up his talk Tony showed and demonstrated various spring winders, their features and still more cautions to the group. Again, thanks to both speakers.

Finally, Chapter 104 Workshops exist to improve and nurture the practical nature of every member's horological interest, it's the place where members can be more hands on and share their knowledge freely, everyone is made to feel welcome and participate. See page 6 for posted Workshop details.

Compiled by Paul Hutchinson & Malcolm Enright.

POSITION	NAME	EMAIL	PHONE
President	Martin Willis	martinw@optusnet.com.au	07 3893 3576
Vice President	Jeff Dyer	nichvi51@skymesh.com.au	07 5463 2312
Secretary	Paul Hutchinson	jphutch@tpg.com.au	07 3263 2694
Treasurer	Bill Meeken	menengai@tpg.com.au	07 3882 1213
Newsletter Editor	Malcolm Enright	male@co-opones.to	07 3356 7645
Librarian	Jeff Dyer	nichvi54@skymesh.com.au	07 5463 2312
Webmaster	Chris Nurser	chrisnurser@gmail.com	07 3263 4293
Workshop Co-ordinator	Paul Hutchinson	jphutch@tpg.com.au	07 3263 2694
NAWCC Correspondent	Norm Heckenberg	heckenberg@physics.uq.edu.au	07 3870 1619
Mentor Co-ordinator	Alan Hazelton	jennifer.porter8@bigpond.com	07 3366 5491

**Chapter 122 - 2009
Program to hand:**

Meetings are held every third Monday of the month at the Eley Park Community Centre Elett Road BLACKBURN SOUTH VIC at 8:00pm

July 20
Prague Astronomical Clock by John Morgan

August 17
AAHS AGM plus Movie

September 21
Joseph Merlin and his Clock by Graeme Carr

October 19
Australian Clock History - Part 2 by Ken Hose

November 16
Clock Services, Parts & Auctions on the Internet by Mick Connolly

December 21
Informal get-together, please bring a plate

**Chapter 72 - 2009
Program to hand:**

Unless otherwise noted, Chapter meetings are held on Sundays: in the Wentworthville Uniting Church Hall near the corner of Station & McKern Streets, Wentworthville, commencing 1.00pm to 5.00pm

Please bring along your clocks/watches/books (that are relevant to the topic) for the display.

2nd August
AGM
The Worst Jobs in Horological History by Alec Rodgers

22nd August
Chapter 72 Annual Auction
FURTHER INFO BACK PAGE

5th September
Spring Workshop

11th October
Unique Wooden Clocks: A presentation by Will Matthysen from Chapter 122 Melbourne

6th December
Skeleton Clocks and Watches: An explanation and display

**Chapter 182 - 2009
Program to hand:**

Normal meetings start at 1:00pm on the last Sunday of the even months, except December at The Irish Club, 6 Parkinson Street WESTON ACT Phone 02 6288 5088

June 28
Wooden Clocks

July 4
Annual Exhibition at the Irish Club

July 5
Roger Little's Shop opening 12-2pm
112/1 Braybrooke Street Bruce (off Battye St)

(TBA)
Workshop on Clock Case restoration

August 23
Miscellaneous Clock Case Restoration including brass, wood etc.

October 25
Tools and Auction

Thoughtful hints on how to build a collection using eBay.

I have been asked to share some of my experiences about collecting clocks and watches.

Let me start by saying that if you want to build up an interesting collection of anything you must actively pursue your hobby. The chances that items just turn up are virtually nil.

There are many ways of chasing your prey so to speak. You can spread the word, ask your friends and family and yes, the real finds are still there. Maybe not as plentiful as in the past but they still turn up. You can advertise, you can look in newspaper adverts, you can visit garage sales, markets, second hand shops, antique dealers, browse the internet etc.

One Internet site that has grown tremendously since its inception is eBay and, although it seems to be losing some of its attraction since it has been trying to become a retailer (they are actively encouraging sellers to abandon the auction process and stipulate BUY IT NOW), is a fantastic site to browse and find your treasures. The great advantage they have is that they operate in some 29 countries, all working in exactly the same manner so even if you do not speak or understand the language it is easy to navigate their sites.

The best advice to newcomers I can give is to read ALL of eBay's very useful instructions to buyers, whilst you are at it you might as well read the instructions for sellers and general information so that you get a feel for the site. It will clarify how it operates and has a lot of useful tips. Also before you start bidding follow the process on a couple of items before you take the plunge. Having done that we now know how to navigate the site and time to start looking for our treasures.

To get the best results in searching it is useful to spread your net as wide as possible and then refine your search i.e. you search within your original search. For example you could start by searching for clocks which will give you every item with the word clock in it. You can then search for say mantel clock or wall clock. If you are looking for old clocks you would start by searching for antiques, then decorative arts, homewares, then clocks etc. Then do another search and start with collectables and then clocks etc.



Bill in front of a recent eBay purchase, an English three train bracket clock.

I find it very useful to save my searches and eBay will send you an email whenever new items you are searching for have been listed for sale. To cover even more ground you can repeat these searches say in eBay U.S.A., eBay UK. Assuming that you started with Australia you are now covering 3 sites. I find the separate searches much better than the eBay service that lists items available from other international sites as that selection is very limited.

The UK is no longer attractive in view of the very high shipping cost. I probably have an advantage in that I speak quite a few languages and have visited and bought items from eBay sites in Holland, Belgium, France, Germany, Brazil and, of course USA, UK and Australia. Having found the item you cannot do without you will have to put in your bid or before you do so find out who is selling the item and what the payment conditions are. You ignore this at your peril as eBay has its share of scammers.

Be very wary of sellers who have no feedback or have negative feedback. A reasonable guide is to see how many positive feedbacks are listed for the seller and this will give you an indication as whether you are dealing with a reliable seller. Be very wary of sellers who are insisting on CASH transfer either via Western Union or MoneyGram, although eBay has now prohibited those types of transactions. This is generally a very good indication of a scammer. There are no safeguards with cash transfers whatsoever and the scammers can cash your money anywhere in the world once you send them the code.

Also before you start bidding make sure that there is no equanimity regarding the shipping cost and make sure that the overseas seller is prepared to send it to Australia.

If the postage or shipping cost is not clearly stated ask the vendor for a quote. Some are quite honest while others load the quote with unreasonable packing and handling charges to make more profit. Some oriental vendors list the item at a very low price with no reserve but quote a ridiculous shipping cost. Another point to consider before you bid is to ask yourself the question: Does the seller really own the item? I had an experience some years ago whereby the same item was offered for sale by two different sellers. The photographs and the descriptions were exactly the same and it was quite clear that somebody had copied the listing. I did not bother pursuing the item as eBay, at that time, was not interested as they said they had no way of establishing who owned the property. A good solution to the problem of ownership is to ask the seller to send you additional photographs of a very special part of the clock, something they cannot crop of one of their photographs and they will have to make especially for you.

Sometimes the descriptions of items for sale are excellent and sometimes they leave a lot to be desired, so do not be afraid to ask about anything you think that needs explaining or needs further details. Quite often family members sell estate items and have no idea how to describe items properly. I have had many occasions where sellers were listing single or double fusee bracket clocks when the clocks had no fusees at all and had spring barrels only. So do not be afraid to ask. Assuming that you are satisfied with all that you will have to place a bid. There are different approaches to bidding, you can bid each time your bid has been bettered or you can put in a maximum bid and eBay will then bid on your behalf or you can snipe and put in your bid at the very last moment. Assuming that you are successful you have entered into a contract and you must pay for the item. With the introduction of Paypal (now owned by eBay) payment has become a lot easier and safer. When you pay with Paypal you have buyers protection (but read the fine print) and you no longer have to pay with Western Union money orders, which some years ago was the cheapest way to pay for overseas purchases and quite acceptable to sellers. For overseas transactions make sure that

you insure the item.

One more warning, there are sellers who will try to complete the transaction outside eBay, maybe because they are trying to save the commission eBay charges on each transaction. Once you agree to that you have lost all protection and are wide open to abuse. This article would not be complete if I would not mention the second chance offers. It is a facility that eBay offers sellers in case they have multiple items or if the original buyer failed to pay. It is being abused. Clever scammers pretending to be the seller used to send an e-mail to the second highest bidder and offered the product at his bid (thus slightly lower than the winning bid). The problem was that they had no product to offer and they took your money and ran. In an effort to stop this practice eBay has since introduced a system where only the seller can see the full details of the bidders. Everybody else can only see their own bid and the other bidders are listed as bidder no. 1, bidder no. 2 etc. In a further effort to stop this, the seller has to advise eBay about the second chance offer and eBay will communicate with the second highest bidder. Another variety of this abuse is where a seller is in collusion with a friend who keeps bidding up the price. The friend wins the auction but obviously does not want the product so the second highest bidder gets the option of a second chance. Luckily you do not have to accept a second chance offer and may decline. If you receive one go to full alert. It is my policy to decline all second chance offers. If you are desperate for the item and are of the opinion that the bidding was fair it would be advisable to contact the seller to make sure that it is his item and request the reason.

Finally when dealing with overseas sellers, calculate what the final landed price will be so that you do not have any surprises. Use XE, the universal currency converter to convert the foreign currency to Australian dollars and realize that items over \$A1,000.00 in landed value incl. postage are subject to GST and cause some delay and inconvenience at customs. So there you are. Daunting? yes, but you will soon get used to the system. Happy hunting and remember there is always another one.

Bill Meeken.



Alan and friends pose in front of his latest longcase acquisition, a 1780/1790 French regulator with large gridiron pendulum.

How it all started for me.

At age 18 I purchased my first clock, a black cast iron Ansonia with ram's heads and side mounts, it cost me \$45.00 in a second hand shop at Mooloolaba. I also purchased a lovely Australian colonial chair for \$1.00 and I still have both of them today. I was 22 when my grand parents returned to England and I purchased 1 large carriage clock and 1 small tortoise shell carriage clock. 1 small Waltham Ships deck clock in a gimbal case and a wall mounted Westminster chiming clock, all of these are still in the collection.

I have long been associated with the antique trade spending years preparing probate estates for a Trustee and Insurance Company, early on. This gave me entree to many homes. In order to determine the value and history of many items I then called on local and surrounding antique shops and outlets to learn the ins & outs of the trade.

An early purchase of 20 Ginger bread Ansonia and others for \$3.00 each from a clockmaker relocating to Mackay was my next purchase whereby I sold half to a clock trader for \$20.00 each and that is how trading started for me.

I would make an offer in one house and on sell to the trader. On seeing his new selling price I decided to start collecting. Now I'm 63 and have never stopped.

I get a lot of pride out of owning these famous pieces which have all been pre-loved and wound in other

homes all over the world. It would not be as much fun if you couldn't share your collection with others. Thanks to an understanding partner in Jennifer (who sometimes shares my passion) even if she thinks we are getting a little cluttered at times.

As you can imagine they all hold a lot of stories and happy memories. I have had a lot of good fortune in my life earlier in the motor trade and for over 40 years I also collected vintage cars, 16 in all. When I started to sell them I turned some of the money (capital) into clocks. Another growing asset (we hope!) I call it my retirement fund, my super is hanging on the walls.

I guess when we buy clocks it's all governed by the purchase price. If we buy well it stands us in good stead. If it is something you just have to have just pay the price and enjoy it. The price paid is long forgotten, at least the enjoyment lasts forever.

I was once offered an interesting lighthouse clock, I established the price over the phone before I made the long drive and as the asking price was \$300.00, it seemed worth the trek. When I got there the seller had changed his asking price to \$3,000.00 after seeing a picture of it in a 1987 Antique Trader publication. It was advertised for \$2,700.00. On seeing the lighthouse clock another three years later I paid them their asking price, after offering ever-increasing amounts each time we saw each other. I still enjoy it and its street value is around \$10,000.00 now. So the point is stick at it if you feel the quarry is worthwhile

I've always said collecting is governed by the depth of your pocket, (disposable income) but some of us are driven by the hunt and what we find and learn, what might be in the next auction or sale room? I attend most of the auctions and consistently do the rounds of the antique districts so I find out who has got what and the asking prices. I must say that it's been a lot of fun and some heartache when you miss out on that purchase but you can't have them all! Acquiring a little knowledge from the club library books, auction prices, antique shops and other like minded club members will always help you to know your clocks and their worth, so happy hunting.

p.s as you all know I never stop asking . . . about clocks.

Alan Hazelton.

clocks which optically melt into the wall paneling appear with male and female shepherds in innocent flirtations, being the first use of bronze sculptures. The most important painter of the period is Antoine Watteau (1684 – 1721). His painting "Ship leaving to Cythera" (1717) shows people longing for the blessed land Arcadia, and can be seen as the inspiration for a whole century-worth of subject matter and anticipates the Rococo style.

circa 1730 – 1745 Louis XV: Rococo

The Rococo period falls in the reign of Louis XV (1723 – 1774) and is therefore often referred to as Louis-quinze. The Rococo and Louis-quinze periods do not fully correspond, however, which leads to some confusion, since after the middle of the 18th century the Rococo style was gradually replaced by the Classical. Early Classical (or Neo-classical) style in France is also referred to as Transitional (transition from Louis-quinze to Louis-seize).

The most prominent ornament in the Rococo period is the shell, which in many different forms decorates wall panels, furniture, mantels, and almost every element of interior decoration. Ormolu applications, wall sconces, candelabras, table decorations and pendulum clocks show shells in basic forms or in numerous variations. Typical examples are the picturesque genre designs by Justin Aurele Meissonnier (1695 – 1750) and by Francois de Cuvillies (1695 – 1768).

The typical pendulum clock of the period has fairly small figures which seem to grow out of the



18 Amor vincit tempus – Love wins over time

The unity of figures, ornament and time measure, which was so typical for the Rococo period, is important for the composition and the underlying meaning. The loving couple, which could have stepped out of a Boucher shepherds painting, is lost in time and united with nature. Cartel Clock, Louis XV, circa 1745, dial signed: Baltazar Paris, fire gilded bronze.

19 Pendulum Clock with Genius and Musical attributes

Typical Rococo clock with C-scrolls and Rocailles. Louis XV, circa 1755, attributed to Robert Osmond (another signed example is documented, see Ottomeyer/Proschel, I, p. 129), fire gilded bronze.

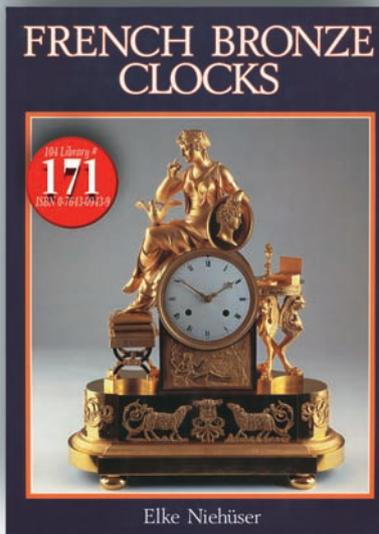


The Librarian reports that not every member is making use of the Chapter's Library.

I can report from my own experience that I have searched for and borrowed books over the past five years, read them and then followed up and purchased most titles of interest, I'd rather have them captive for myself for all time.

Everyone has their own library secret that's for sure. I'm interested in hearing other member's stories for future issues. You might like to select a book and write a review, following on from Jeff Dyer's French marble clock story in the last issue?

One title I'd love to own is the one featured and reproduced on the right; French Bronze Clocks (1700–1830) by Elke Niehüser, #171 in the titles list of the Chapter's Library. Truthfully its a gorgeous two-in-one, a study of the figural images designers employed in these timepieces with a directory of 1,365 fully documented bronze table clocks collected by Clems von Halen. Published in the USA by Schiffer Publishing Ltd in 1999. Originally published in German, hard bound with 270 pages printed in full colour on quality coated stock, this book



illustrates the history of pendulum clocks through to the fire gilded materials and techniques employed.

The 'contents' cover sections on the following; Gods, Heroes & Muses. Amor & Venus. Noble Savages. Genre Scenes with a most complete Addendum. I only have space remaining to delve into the acknowledgements, it reads like a who's who of galleries and European collectors. The author thanks Mr Michael Nolte, of Muenster. Through working in his business, Ms Niehüser met many collectors of 18th century

pendulum clocks who have shared their knowledge and enthusiasm for the subject, no more so that Mr Christian Pfeiffer-Belli who initiated this book project and seems to have managed its production. Monsieur Francois Duesberg's museum collection in Mons, Belgium is the base for the central aspect for the historical concept of the book and the iconographic tradition of clocks studied and reproduced.

The photographs were made by Gabriele Bracht, they are instrumental in not only showing the beauty of these three-dimensional objects in a two-dimensional fashion, but providing the reader with a sensual experience.

One further piece of observation; every clock illustrated is lusciously documented and most eloquently described and is in the most pristine condition imaginable. As I have always realised it takes masses of money and time to research and procure the best in the category, alas that's only the start. The detailed documentation, the professional preservation and the security aspects are also critical in any horological pursuit.

Compiled by Malcolm Enright.



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Chapter 168 Report:

Saturday 25 July 2009 Chapter 168 members and others interested in 400 day clocks met at Julia and Stuart Woods' home in Springwood. It was an excellent turnout with 15 in attendance (with a special guest; Christoff from Germany - an engineer who accompanied Peter James). The meeting commenced with the identification of a number of clocks including:

1906 Jahresuhrenfabrik with an unusual pendulum (see pendulum No. 20, page 196 Horolovar 400 Day Clock Repair Guide. **1950 Koma** Lancet wooden cased clock with a window to expose the pendulum. A most unusual and appealing clock that would proudly grace any home. This clock featured an unusual pendulum that couldn't be identified from the Horolovar 400 Day Clock Repair Guide. **1951 Herr** enamel base, dial and pillars with floral patterning. **1954 Schatz** enamel base, dial and pillars with floral patterning. **1955 Schatz** Bermuda coach clock.

This followed by two additional **Gustav Becker** clocks to be dated

and added to the Queensland register of Becker clocks. The first clock owned by Peter James was dated as Circa 1907 in the Horolovar 400 Day Clock Repair Guide and Circa 1927 in the Torsion Times update by John Hubby. The second clock owned by Malcolm Enright was dated as Circa 1907 in the Horolovar 400 Day Clock Repair Guide. This clock had a four ball pendulum as opposed to the other clocks, all of which were disc pendulums. In addition to it's adjustable pallets this clock still had it's decorative piece under the dial,



(many of which have been removed over the years and believed to now be handsome ladies brooches). Both clocks are excellent examples of Gustav Becker's work.

Following afternoon tea (thanks to Julia) Keith Hallett presented a talk on the correct positioning of the pallet fork. The fork which guides the pallet pin and provides the impulse to the pallets which can be set according

to the repair guide but very often will need adjustment as no two clock characteristics are the same and each clock has an optimal position for the fork. When fitting the fork, which may have one or two screws, extra care needs to be taken to ensure that you don't kink the spring between the top block and the fork. The gap between the fork's pins and the anchor pin should be no more than the thickness of a sheet of writing paper. No oil should be applied to this area. Subsequent discussion occurred on the best lubricant for 400 mainsprings and movement oils. Slick 50 was suggested for the mainspring and Etsyntha type 3-5 oil from Time Savers as a good clock oil.

At the end of the meeting everyone enjoyed a glass of wine and further discussion on 400 day and other clock topics.

The next meeting of the group will be a Workshop on 14 November 2009 and will be held at the James' residence in Ashmore. More information will be circulated via email closer to the Workshop.

Compiled by Stuart Woods.

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More Australian electrical horological research is under way but still questions remain.

Norm Heckenberg and Tony Roberts from the Brisbane Chapter of the NAWCC, have been researching electrical clock systems in Australia over the past 17 years. We have extensively researched Synchronome in Brisbane and Prouds in Sydney. Articles and a booklet have been produced as a result of the research (see below).

Our research is now concentrating on early installations in Sydney including that at Circular Quay installed by Prouds in 1913. From the small amount of information we have it appears that the clock system included:

A master clock in the vestibule of the Harbour Trust Building on the corner of George and Alfred Sts (now demolished). This clock was electrically connected with a clock in the Sydney Observatory so that the pendulums swung synchronously. The master clock at the Harbour trust Building transmitted a synchronising current hourly (this may be half hourly) throughout the system, correcting any slight error that existed in any individual clock. The complete installation as well as the master clock included:

- Six single dial, 2 ft diameter drum clocks,
- Two double dial 2 ft diameter drum clocks,
- Three smaller clocks as starters (we do not know what this terminology means),
- Two turret movements (electromechanical) each driving three, 3 ft and three 3 ft 6 in diameter dials (Lane Cove and Manly jetties) and
- One turret movement (electromechanical) driving a 4 ft dial

All the above clocks were complete and contained their own battery, were self driven with hands moving continuously. We think that the Drum Clocks and Starters above were probably modified Thomas Murday horizontal balance wheel clocks.

The pictures show a clock which was located at circular Quay (probably in an office) and another at the GPO. We believe they were modified Thomas Murday horizontal balance wheel clocks.

The synchronisation or correction



system used is a modification of that used by the Standard Time Company (STC), London. Thomas Murday worked for STC in the early 1900s and applied the principles used in the STC clock system.

Have you seen a clock like it, have you seen or do you know of anyone who may have some of the relics, or information about the Circular Quay system? If so, Norm or I would be interested and appreciate you contacting us so we may continue to preserve Australian horological history.

There is another clock in the foreground of the picture above, probably a slave clock, which we would like to research, again if you have any information please let either of us know.

Compiled by Norm Heckenberg and Tony Roberts.



Articles to date:
Synchronome Brisbane 1998, booklet
Synchronomes at the End of the World, Horological Journal, October and November 2006
Perfectly Simple and Simply Perfect, Horological Journal, February 2009

Norm Heckenberg
(Work) Tuesday–Thursday
0733653369
(Home) 0738701619
<heckenberg@physics.uq.edu.au>
Tony Roberts
(Work and Home) 0733761188
<elmorer@acenet.net.au>

To all members NAWCC Chapter

104. The Chapter 104 email base has increased considerably this year. This is in part due to a number of new members and also existing members who now have email addresses. While this email is principally intended for those members; it may serve as reminder to all.

Lindsay Bramall, President, of the Sydney NAWCC Chapter 72 conducts a very popular, free of charge, internet means of buying and selling horological related items. The selling vehicle is known as e-Sell and the wanted one is e-Search.

It works this way:

You email your wanted to sell or buy item to our Chapter President, Martin Willis. (When Martin is unavailable you may send it to me). Martin will email it to Lindsay who then sends it on to all Sydney Chapter 72 members and to the Presidents of other Chapters i.e. Brisbane, Canberra and Melbourne. The local Chapter Presidents then distribute

it through their Chapters email networks. Thus e-Sell and e-Search provides wide coverage at no cost.

The rules are very simple:

If you have a single quality item that you wish to sell (no junk lots) then email the details, (include a price if you wish, but it is not necessary as this can be negotiated between seller and interested purchaser) and photos (jpeg) to Martin one item only per email.

Lindsay will forward potential purchasers on to the seller, in the order that he receives them. Lindsay will not accept any role in the sell/buy process or negotiate on either parties behalf, but act purely as a channel to bring the seller and buyer in contact with each other.

When a sale has been completed then Lindsay must be informed by the seller so as to terminate the sale process and then he shall advertise the fact that it has been sold. If an item is to be withdrawn from sale then the same announcement must be

forthcoming and made.

Neither Lindsay, nor Chapter 72 accepts any liability or responsibility with respect to:

1. The accuracy of the item description,
2. The sell/buy process,
3. Any disruption to the transaction process due to failures of the Internet service.

4. Lindsay's/Chapter 72's inability to fulfil the service offered due to any mishap whatsoever.

Lindsay is simply offering to expand our mutual enjoyment of horology and to facilitate the exchange and distribution of goods and items to those within our growing circle of like minded members.

This does not displace the advertising through our Chapter 104 Mainspring Newsletter.

I will forward Lindsay's most recent items in a separate email with the photos attached.

Paul Hutchinson, Secretary.

I am looking to BUY a 6 1/4" bezel with convex glass to suite Napoleon Hat style mantle clock. Martin Willis 0413 626 929 <martinw7@optusnet.com.au>

.....
For SALE or SWAP; a Welsh moon phase 8 day longcase clock in very good, original un-touched condition. Sell for \$7,500.00 or SWAP for a good second hand tin boat about 4 meters long with (say) a 40 hp motor or what have you. I still want to BUY a Rolex or Tudor submariner also. Phil Smyrk 07 3257 7447 <phil@journeyjottings.com>

.....
Wanted to BUY Brass base for Gustav Becker 400-day clock c1900-1915 Paul Hutchinson 07 3263 2694 <jphutch@tpg.com.au>

.....
The management committee is searching for the club's canvas banner? Anyone with any information please call Bill Meeken on 07 38821213 <menengai@tpg.com.au>

.....
Every member is welcome to post a NOTICE here, send copy or telephone the Editor !

Looking to complete this Novelty Clock illustrated below.

Wanted to BUY any parts, movement with hands?

Malcolm Enright 0413 085 172 <male@co-opones.to>

The Collector's Bible - Alan & Rita Shenton's COLLECTABLE CLOCKS 1840-1940 lists two of these novelty alarms, front & back views are shown on page 347. The rear view shows the movement which was a typical tic-tac escapement, late 1800s with a single barrel arbor producing the necessary power for both the alarm and the time mechanism.



From: heckenberg@physics.uq.edu.au
Date: 8 June 2009 7:51:22 AM
Subject: [qldclocks] clockmaker gets gong
To: qldclocks@yahoogroups.com
Reply-To: qldclocks@yahoogroups.com

In today's Queen's Birthday Honours List you can find an OAM to Doug Minty 'for service to the community through the Watch and Clockmaker's Societies of Australia'. It's great to see this recognition for a living legend and just nice guy.

Norman

Chapter 72 Annual Auction.

The Sydney auction attracts numerous Queensland attendees, Carla Bosch advises that they already have bookings for 700 lots, so no more will be accepted. Saturday 22 August 2009 Going, going, Gone! Please contact Doug Minty 02 9631 4720 or Ray Garnsey 02 9871 1985 with any inquiries.

Venue: Wentworthville Baptist Church Boronia Street, Wentworthville
Viewing times:
5:00-9:00pm
Friday 21 August 2009
7:30-8:50am
Sat 22 August 2009