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?

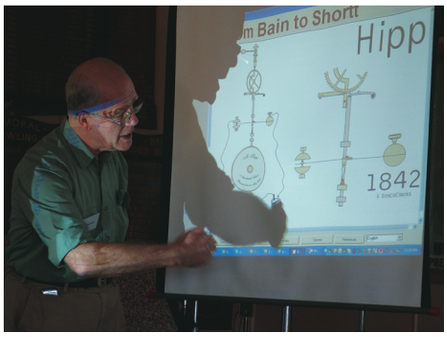
Readers might also remember the issue of Clocks Magazine from August 1985, there was a four page article by D. D. West interviewing George Hamburger of Clocks of Distinction, Hunters Hill, Sydney.

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 Module equals PCD divided by the number of teeth. 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.