



### Two favourites belonging to Colin & Nancy Hill.

In the 1970's, I joined the NAWCC and so began our visits to the NAWCC regionals in the United States, during which time Nancy and I made many friends in the horological collecting fraternity, one person in particular was always ready to talk about his hobby and his passion, that man was Henry Freid; his knowledge could not be beaten on this subject. He has now passed on and is sadly missed although 40 years on now, we don't travel as much.

On one of my last trips, not long before he passed away, we were sitting in the mart room, at this USA regional talking about collecting and my impressions of collecting in Queensland. He was always interested in other chapters, when in answer to my question; did he have any pieces that I could be interested in? He mentioned two horological pieces that might be of interest to me.

The First one (top left) was an early watch movement with a missing case, a George Graham to be sure. The case had possibly been of high carat gold. Had some vandal sold the gold for cash? Never mind . . . I was more interested in its history. George Graham was known as Honest George and he was

born in the Kirkcaldy District of Cumberland, (1673 and died 1750). He was one of the most eminent English horologists employing verge escapements to 1726, then his highly sophisticated improvements to the cylinder escapement, his invention of the dead-beat escapement and the first mercury-compensated pendulum. He was an assistant and remained great friends with Thomas Tompion, he even married Tompion's niece. Graham was left the business after Tompion's death in 1713. It was George Graham who upon his death was interned in Westminster Abbey.

The movement has a porcelain dial, fleur-de-lys hands. The back plate is heavily pierced and engraved and what is amazing, it is still running after 300 years have passed.

The second watch (top right), that Henry offered me was a full hunter watch made by Thomas Earnshaw. With a family crest of a Hogg's head and the letters R.G. engraved on the front cover. The movement has a diamond end stone and is wound through the front porcelain dial which has caused minor chipping around the winding hole and this would be the reason for later watches of Earnshaw, winding from the rear. It has a verge escapement and fusee drive. Interestingly, this must be an

earlier watch by Earnshaw as his form of detent escapement came to be the accepted form and is still manufactured today.

I took this watch with me on a visit to the Victoria and Albert Museum in London as I had a letter of introduction to Jonathan Betts; the curator of Horology there. After showing him the watch, he took Nancy and I down to the student room where they do all the cataloging and restoration of their valuable pieces. He further told us some of the history of Earnshaw and the interesting fact that they had pieces numbered close to my watch, which is #3484. A sister watch of the Museum and ours was one of four carried by Bligh on his second voyage when he sailed in the ship THE PROVIDENCE in 1791. Bligh was testing the accuracy of these timepieces for their use in the Royal Navy's navigation prowess, pieces carried were by Earnshaw; #1503 and a second timepiece #1508. Bligh also carried one by Earnshaw's \*nemesis, John Arnold #160 and one by Brockbanks.

Thomas Earnshaw was famous for the Earnshaw escapement used in marine chronometers having a compensating balance. Thomas Earnshaw operated from 120 High Holborn Street, London and was born in Ashton-under-Lyne, (1749–1829).

Colin Hill & Malcolm Enright.

\*Arnold's pivoted-detent escapement, his various balances and his later employment of the spring detent usually ascribed to Thomas Earnshaw, and the bitter controversies that took place between these two men have never been proved either way. Arnold's invention of the helical hairspring with terminal curves was a most important contribution to the development of the art of chronometer making.

DJB - The International Dictionary of Clocks - Editor Alan Smith (Page 250).



### On the bench - Martin Willis.

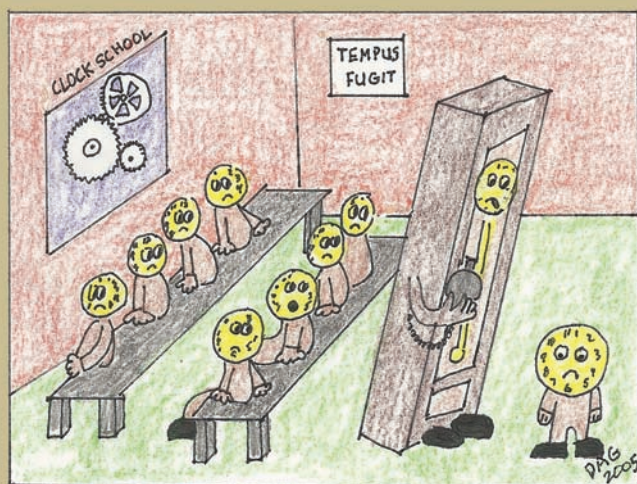
It is always nice to get an unusual or rare clock in for repair and this one is no exception it is a 'Tavern clock' by William Stevens of Cirencester, Gloucester, England, he was working 1775 to 1793.

These are very large wall clocks as can be seen from the mercury barometer hanging along side it. This clock is in lovely condition with the front of the clock all hand painted gilt chinoiserie on japanned black. The dial is fitted to the case by four wooden pegs the same as most other dial clocks, only it is necessary to remove the hands as the movement is fixed to a seat board. The hands are made of brass and the minute hand is counter-balanced. The movement is an 'A' plate with a five wheel train. The movement has been restored in recent years in England but the clock has never run since.

The driving weight is a large 15lb lump of lead. After hanging the clock and making a few adjustments the clock is running perfectly now.

Further information on these clocks can be found in the 'English Dial Clock' by Ronald E. Rose. There is a copy in the club library.

**Why not show us all what you have on your bench at the moment? Contact the Mainspring Editor.**



Late again, eh, Harrison?



### Workshop Report 11 July 2010.

Twenty-three members in attendance, also this was our last Workshop at Balmoral Bowls Club. Bill Meeken advised the management there of our decision to move on, our tenure was finalised on a friendly basis. Library books coming in and going out, Jeff Dyer advised that the library would be moved that afternoon so workshop attendees should process their library transactions asap.

As usual there was a variety of clocks and watches being cleaned, checked and repaired with members assisting members where possible. Tony Manton was attempting to fit an Omega Chrono movement into a Tissot case as an unknown previous owner had disposed of (melted down?) the original gold case. Ron Doyle worked on a Synchronome dial movement with Tony Roberts.

Ken Durston and Eddy Penning

continued setting-up an Urgos movement.

Mervyn Whittenbury and Neil Herbert worked on a 17 jewel Swiss movement circa 1919 with 30 gravity quadrant weight. Afterwards they checked a National Time Recorder job coster.

Nev Leigh brought in a 1930-1950s British mantel clock which was in exceptionally good condition outside, he still has to check the movement. Henry Braun experimented with the springs for his 400 day Kundo and brought down from Eagle Heights his box of winders for Mal Enright to sort and fit to a novelty clock in the shape of a television. Mal had made an image for the T. V. display from a Playboy centrefold - Miss November 1974, the period of manufacture for the alarm clock. Harry Boevink cleaned the going parts of a FHS 1986 Grandfather clock and reassembled it.

Mike Ward cleaned and reassembled

the going parts of a 400 day Hauck clock.

Alan Caine cleaned and checked a 400 day Wurthner.

Paul Ferris under instruction from Tony Roberts removed the mainsprings from a Haller Westminster chime mantel clock using the club spring winder. After cleaning and oiling the springs were safely replaced into the barrels. Jim Gray continued working on his Cuckoo movement with help from Jim Dunn, Harry Boevink and Greg Baker. Greg pointed out that the pallets were unequal in their drop so this will have to be adjusted to attain perfect beat...to be continued!

At lunchtime we were given an interesting demonstration on blueing of mild steel hands and screws by Neil Herbert, here are his notes supplied.

Subject: Fw: Blueing Steel

Blueing is the colouring of steel by means of heat. The heat required is about 570 degrees to produce a nice purple blue colour. The purpose of blueing is to enhance the look of a clock, especially if it is a skeleton clock or one with a visible movement. Also it helps protect the steel from rusting. Only steel pieces can be blueed and brass cannot. The first task is to polish the article and get rid of any dirt or rust. This polishing also allows you to view the change in colour as you heat the material. Screws and small pieces can simply be held over a flame with a pair of long nose pliers or a fine steel wire. Once the desired colour is reached they can be quickly cooled to stop further colour change. I drop my screws into a small container of light oil and hope this further protects them from rust. To blue hands it is better to lay them in a shallow pan on a bed of fine brass filings (see below). This allows for a more even heat and you will find that the hand blues evenly along its length. Don't forget you are looking for a dark purple blue look.



Jeff Dyer then gave a talk and demo of the materials and methods used in water gilding.

Jim Gray Workshop Co-ordinator.



## General Meeting Report 8 August 2010.

The first meeting in the new Chapter facility at the Rocklea Showground.

Members and their partners inspected the new facility prior to commencement of the General Meeting. They were shown the new library room where the Chapter's comprehensive library is available to the members at all meetings. This valuable asset can now be put to its best use. Jeff Dyer, our librarian has taken a proud interest in the library and is able to help members locate books and get the best from the library, whatever their interest.



The workshop bench built by Allan Roberts was on display; the bench allows for the maximum ease of use of the permanently mounted lathe, ultrasonic parts washer, vice and spring winder. The Chapter tools when not in use at workshops are locked in an easily accessible set of drawers under the bench, the bench is available for the members at all workshop meetings. This is a bench and the set of tools any of us would be very happy to have in our workshop. Other Chapter equipment including amplifier, screen, whiteboards, projector etc. are now all under lock and key in the library and protected by a monitored alarm system and patrolled by security guards. As further protection of Chapter assets, Bill Meeken has been

able to insure them for a satisfactory premium. I might add that Chapter assets are audited annually. The Chapter now has a facility that would be the envy of many clubs; it has been a long held ambition and has taken many years to achieve but it has been worthwhile.

Martin opened the meeting and welcomed the members and guests. We started at 1:15pm, a little later than planned, just a couple of delays due to us not being accustomed to using our equipment, computer, projector and amplifier in the new location. The formal business of the meeting i.e. correspondence, treasurer's report was attended to efficiently.

Tony Manton presented a very interesting talk on Timex watches. He spoke on the origins of Timex. In 1887, the Waterbury Clock Company introduced the large jumbo pocket watch named after the famous P T Barnum circus elephant. This watch caught the attention of Robert H Ingersoll, a salesman and eventual marketing pioneer. In 1896, Ingersoll introduced the Ingersoll Yankee, a dollar watch produced by Waterbury Clock Co. This watch became known as the watch that made the dollar famous. The Timex brand made it's public debut in 1950 and went on American television with advertisements showing the watches being put through all sorts of torture tests and surviving. Timex introduced the Indigo night light range of watches in 1992. One of these watches used its light to guide a group of evacuees down 40 dark flights of stairs in the 9/11 saga. Sales of Timex watches to date have exceeded 1 billion watches, a long way from humble Waterbury Clock Company beginnings. Chapter 104 has always encouraged all branches of horology, however since Tony has taken charge of the watch segment

and we have a web cam and projector to project the various features of the watches on a large screen for all to see, interest in the watches has grown. The watch segment is now a significant part of the General Meetings.

This meeting was a special occasion for our Chapter and we had a very good afternoon tea catered by Alan Hazelton and Jenny Porter. The members and partners mingled and enjoyed an extended coffee break.



After the break we resumed with show and tell. Amongst the unusual items was the watch mounted as the knob of a walking stick belonging to Colin Hill. This didn't look as though someone had stuck a pocket watch on a walking stick; it was very much a purpose built time piece. The enamel dial is in perfect condition and the whole piece looks elegant with its roman numerals and gold hands.



Allan Roberts used a turntable (Lazy Susan) to display an unusual Badische Uhrenfabrik quarter strike clock. It is a very ornate bracket clock with finials and high quality decoration. He had spent some time

researching some of the history on the brand. Incidentally the Lazy Susan is an excellent way to display a clock it enables it to be rotated to show all aspects without the risk associated with dropping a valuable clock. Alan Hazelton showed a very early lantern clock with an hour hand only. One outstanding feature of which was the width of the wheels, no small wonder it has lasted so well, it was built to last. Jim Dunn showed the restoration work that he had done on a quality clock that he had been able to buy quite cheaply because the wooden case was in such a battered state. Being a trained antique furniture restorer he has an advantage over most of us when it comes to wooden case restoration. He had replaced broken pieces stained and refinished the case to a very high standard.



Norman Heckenberg showed a collection of Horological tools; many from earlier times but all of them very functional. The web cam and projector allowed him to display many of the smaller items, some were simply mystery items to the many of us. He demonstrated how turning was done using watchmaker's turns. These date from times when motorized lathes were unknown, the work piece being rotated back and forth by a bow and cord. This obviously would have taken a high degree of coordination between the hands and no doubt took a while to master. The graver would only cut when the item was being revolved toward the operator and he had to concentrate on the cut and pulling the bow.



Tony Roberts displayed his hand cranked wheel topping machine. This, as you guessed, was used in making clock wheels, first the wheel had the correct number of spaces cut with parallel sides, the developing teeth at that stage would have straight sides and almost square tops. The wheel was then put in the wheel topping machine and as it was cranked it cut the characteristic ogive shape to the top of the tooth. As one tooth was completed the wheel automatically indexed to the next tooth successively modifying the wheel teeth to the required shape. In instances where a wheel may have been cut a little oversize this machine could also be used to reduce the overall diameter. Tony cautioned when buying antique tools that everyone needs to be sure that the tool comes with all the accessories, his tool did come with almost all the original parts intact.



The day was made all the more memorable by having some of our long time loyal members in attendance. Colin Hill and Nancy came from Pelican Waters on the Sunshine Coast and Arnold Avery and Bernice came down from Toowoomba for the event. The Chapter has room to grow in the new premises, for although the meeting was well attended the room would comfortably hold three times the forty nine members and partners in attendance.

James Hutchinson - Secretary.



### World's biggest clock begins ticking.

The four faced clock, atop the Abraj-Al-Bait towers in Mecca, Saudi Arabia. A giant clock in the Muslim holy city of Mecca began ticking last Wednesday (17-8-2010) on the first day of the fasting month of Ramadan in Saudi Arabia. The four-faced clock project will be fully operational after a three-month trial period. The royal clock, designed by German 'premiere composite technologies company', sits atop a skyscraper just 50 meters away from the grand mosque in the city. The clock was designed to be the world's largest - six times larger than London's Big Ben.

The 577-meter Mecca clock royal tower also features a lunar observation center and an Islamic museum. Situated in the heart of the massive Abraj-Al-Bait complex comprising hotels, shopping malls and conference centers - the clock will run on Arabian Standard Time, three hours ahead of the universal GMT standard. Each of the clock's four faces are 151 feet in diameter and will be illuminated by 2 million LED lights, along with huge Arabic script reading: 'in the name of Allah. Another 21,000 white and green colored lights, fitted at the top of the clock, will flash to as far as 19 miles to signal Islam's five-times daily prayers. The builders of the clock confirmed that the diameter of each dial is around 40 meters.

<<http://www.designboom.com/weblog/cat/9/view/11211/worlds-biggest-clock-begins-tickin>>

Tony Manton has passed on this information gathered from his internet searches, part of these texts he delivered in his watch segment.

This blogspot created and updated by Rui Silva is growing in popularity: <http://watchescorner.blogspot.com>

Timex Group B.V. is an American watch company. Timex's U.S. headquarters are located in Connecticut, and it has substantial operations in China, the Philippines and India and full scale sales companies in Canada, the UK, France and Mexico.

The company began in 1854 as Waterbury Clock in Connecticut's Naugatuck Valley, known during the nineteenth century as the "Switzerland of America." Sister company Waterbury Watch manufactured the first inexpensive mechanical pocket watch in 1880. During World War I, Waterbury began making wristwatches, which had only just become popular, and in 1933 it made history by creating the first Mickey Mouse clock under license from Walt Disney, with Mickey's hands pointing the time.

During World War II, Waterbury renamed itself U.S. Time Company. In 1950 the company introduced a wristwatch called the Timex, which revolutionized the time-keeping industry. The wristwatches allowed people to easily tell the time, and were also simply designed, inexpensive, and durable. These improvements played into what was to become one of the most celebrated TV advertising campaigns of all time.

Timex wristwatches first were promoted in print. Such ads depicted the timepieces attached to the bat of baseball legend Mickey Mantle (1931–1995), affixed to a turtle and to a lobster's claw, frozen in an ice cube, and twirling inside a vacuum cleaner. Then in the mid-

1950s, John Cameron Swayze (1906–1995), a veteran newscaster, began presiding over a series of television commercials in which the wristwatch was subjected to intricate torture tests. A Timex might be crushed by a jack-hammer, tossed about in a dishwasher, or strapped to a diver who plunged off a cliff. After this mistreatment, Swayze held the still-operating wristwatch up to the camera. He then declared that it "takes a licking and keeps on ticking"—a catch-phrase that entered the pop-culture vocabulary. The success of the ads resulted in Timex wristwatch sales surpassing the five million mark by 1958. By the end of the decade, one in every three wristwatches sold in the United States was a Timex.

Across the decades, thousands of viewers wrote the company, proposing scenarios for future torture tests, like the Air Force sergeant who offered to crash a plane while wearing a Timex. The ad campaign ended in 1977, with a "failure" that had been planned in advance. In the commercial, an elephant stomped on—and completely crushed—a Timex, at which point Swayze informed the television audience, "It worked in rehearsal."

Timex survived the 1970s and 1980s and came back strongly. The company remains profitable and competitive and the Timex brand continues its dominance. Its primary market remains the United States and Canada, although the Timex brand is sold worldwide due to its ability to capitalize on its strong brand image and reputation for quality. In addition, Timex Group sells many other brands addressing all segments of the watch market, such as Guess, Nautica, Opex and, in a successful foray into the luxury watch market, Versace. In addition

to its regular watch lines Timex also manufactures the well received Timex Datalink series of PDA-type watches, and GPS enabled watches, heart rate monitor exercise watches and similar high tech devices.

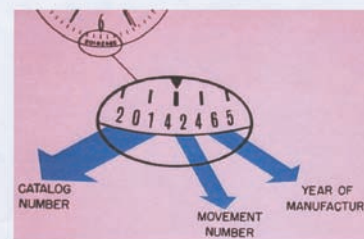
Today, Timex Group products are manufactured in the Far East and in Switzerland, often based on technology that continues to be developed in the United States and in Germany. To date it has sold over one billion watches.

Further Timex info can be found here: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timex\\_Corporation](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timex_Corporation)

#### Telling the date on some Timex watches

Lots and lots of questions on this. Timex, fortunately, is one of the few makers which left a code allowing identification of the watch.

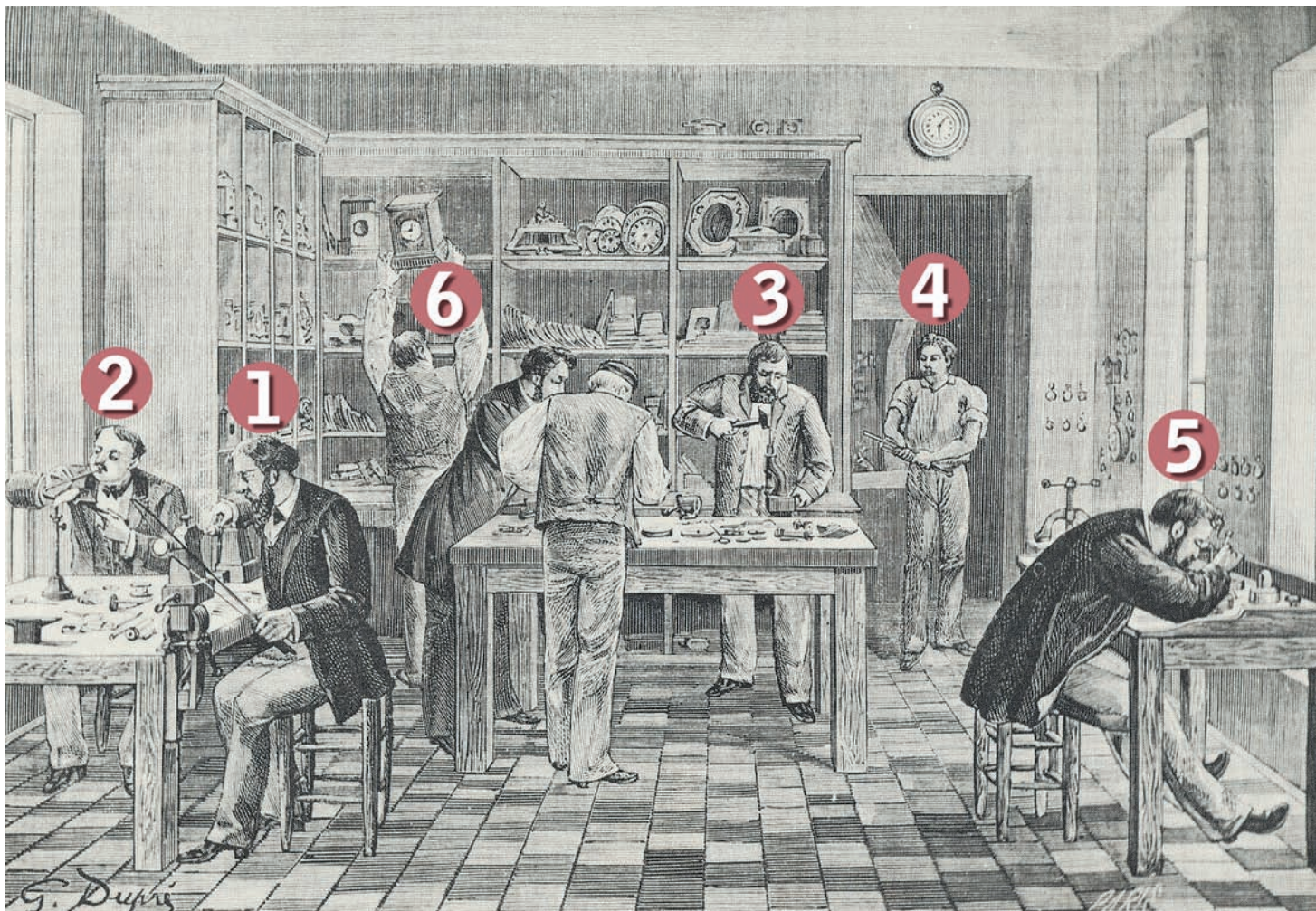
See picture below. From 1962, until 7, Timex had a code. The code is printed on dial in very small numbers above six o'clock. The last two numbers (all the way on the right) correspond to the year, 68 is made in 1968, etc. The next two (or sometimes three) numbers, moving leftward, are the movement number. The first four numbers are the catalog/model number.



Members are requested to bring in their examples of the watch type under discussion, shown below are four from Merv Wittenbury's collection. The graphic above is from <http://timex.homestead.com/date.html>

The Qld WCA is holding another auction day: Sunday the 14 November 2010.  
The location: The Balmoral Bowls Club, 1 Jean Howie Drive, Morningside.  
Start time: 10:00am Finish time: 4:00pm  
Lunch: a sausage sizzle at 1:00pm will be prepared for all present, at no cost. Tea and coffee facilities are also provided.  
Other drinks can be purchased at the bar.  
Further info from Karl Andersen: [chronosjmj@hotmail.com](mailto:chronosjmj@hotmail.com)  
0414 341 118. C.104 members will have to pay a \$20 day membership fee to get a bidding number if they are not a member of the WCA.





### Horological Shop Tools - 1700 to 1900 Theodore R. Crom, 1980.

Martin Willis initiated the purchase of this book for the Chapter 104 library after he saw Norman Heckenberg's copy. After Norman and Tony did their tool presentation at the last General Meeting I thought I'd get crushed in the rush to the library as I wanted to get my hands on it for this review. Having borrowed it previously, I am in awe of Ted's research and his ownership of all the trade tool catalogues virtually reproduced as fascimilies in this beautifully bound, tooled fabric, 668 page book.

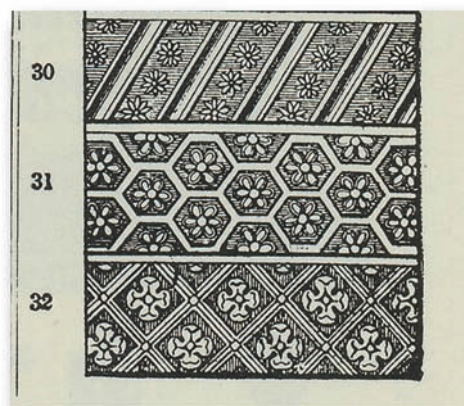
Anyone with an interest in finished clocks and watches must surely have a fascination for the processes and the tools employed in their manufacture? I remembered reading Alan Smith's review of Crom's 4th publication; Trade Catalogues 1542-1842 in *Antiquarian Horology*, No.1 Vol.19 Autumn 1990 where he also pointed out that all four books go much further to investigate the history and development of tools, the way they were (and are) used and about the lives of the makers as well. In Smith's words, "all have been copiously illustrated from Crom's

extraordinary collection of these artifacts". Thirty-eight old books and catalogues are reproduced along with workshop and trade cards of the Eighteenth & Nineteenth Centuries, then the author shows and examines each individual tool (some 57 kinds) each separated by their country of origin. Listed are Museums with horological tool displays, an extensive two page bibliography and a thorough index.

The image above is from the Workshops and Trade Cards section, it shows the interior of the entire watch-clock shop with eight workmen, including our friend (1) at the massive turns. Remember Norman demonstrating his turning bow?, he also showed us his two blowpipes. Well at the same table we find a craftsman (2) with his blowpipe and flame. Three men are working at the middle table, the one on the right (3) is using a substantial staking or wheel stretching tool. In the door stands the smith (4) with tongs and hot item. At the bench to the right (5) is another properly dressed watchmaker bending to his work. A glass alcohol lamp seems to be on the bench before him. General dogs-body (6) is not mentioned in

the text although in those trades they were a dime a dozen. The image above is originally courtesy of the British Horological Institute Library, Upton Hall, England.

My personal favourite is from Henri Picard et Frère, Figure 580, page 302. There are seven series of knurling patterns illustrated, all available in 1885 - here's a detail:



The management committee are thrilled to have made the library accessible now at every meeting, Jeff Dyer the Chapter Librarian encourages more use of this resource and asks that all members please come forward and suggest new titles that members might deem useful?

Malcolm Enright - Editor.



to see the club portable workbench in use, especially as Allan manufactured the bench and assembled various tools on it himself.



Tony Manton inspected a Kohler (German) pre WW2 8 day movement. Did it come from a travel clock or a car clock?

and serviced a Wilson & Wilson, London movement. Mervyn Whittenbury worked on the stamping mechanism National Timer Recorder Comp. Ltd, Kent being prepared for the Pine Rivers Museum clock display, November 2010.



Tony Roberts assisted with barrel breakdowns and spring winding with the new member, Mark Chalmers and had his notes on his journey finding info and research on his recently purchased Magneta electrical master clock case and movement. Tony had the pendulum case he has manufactured from a heavy cased artillery shell.

## Workshops Report 12 September 2010.

Thirty one members and three visitors present, I can report that all the visitors are now new Chapter 104 members. Harry Boevink stripped and cleaned an Ansonia movement. Recent member, Paul Zac checked an old Bakelite cased electric clock. It appears to be running slow even though it has a 240 Volt synchronous motor, Norman gave the balance wheel a flick once it was powered and off it went (after cautioning Paul about the dangers of mains powered clocks).



Ken Durston and Eddie Penning stripped and cleaned a pre WW1 400 day Kieninger & Obergfell clock. Yiu Yan inspected a French time and strike clock. Previous owner had attempted to fit an incorrect dial and bezel. Part of the movement had been mutilated trying to make these changes - not an easy fix. Chris Nurser inspected a HAC mantel clock and a Schatz 8 day carriage clock. Henry Braun worked on a rare 1926 German musical carriage clock, the first of its kind, he says. Allan Roberts cleaned and serviced a 91/4" Ansonia clock. It was good



Neil Herbert experimented with different springs on an Omega 1948 manual watch. No luck this time.



Bill Meeken investigated ways to speed up an early Bulle clock (above) which loses 1/2 hour a day. Ron Walker checked out a 1910 Bulle Lille battery clock using 1.5 V "D" cell. Norman Heckenberg checked an Oro Alto copy of a Bullette battery clock 1930-1959. New member Mark Chalmers cleaned



Mal Enright showed his local 1911 Synchronome master clock case, movement and its slave movement, from C.W. Just & Co. Jewellers of South Brisbane that he is doing up with the assistance of Tony Roberts.



Jimmy Dunn presented us with his lunch time talk on veneering and specifically how to make a tool to cut in brass and wooden strings, as usual his working knowledge was shared with everyone. Today's workshop was very well attended and all present reported they were happy with the new club facility. Jim Gray - Workshop co-ordinator.



### On the bench - Jeweller to the Lost

Alan Coles is our plumber in Ross, Tasmania. He is so proper, old-school reliable and (I always forget not to swear in front of him) as he doesn't abide a sailor's tale or the floral vernacular! He does have a fascination of all things that fly and unusual clocks and dials. We love the guy - without any warning we received a watch and these instructions: "I want a small mouse carved in silver and I want him running up around the watch case, the movement isn't working so can you also have a look at it, please?".

The movement has a seconds sweep and a push down button just behind the front case lug for stopping the seconds count. We had to avoid messing with this action and positioned the mouse in front of the lug. Juan-Luis roughly made a silver shape, managed to solder it onto the case with minimum heat and then carved away the silver, creating the running mouse form. We obviously removed the movement and glass prior to the mouse make. We sent the movement to the Chinese watchmaker; Paul who does complicated fusee repairs for us. I collected the watch today and it will now be snail-mailed to Tasmania.

Paul showed me another watch so similar to Alan's one and asked did I know the owner? Sure enough, the watch belonged to Phil Smyrk. So I sent Phil a quick email with a few pics and his email reply (with pics) is there on the right.

When discussing the task with Alan over the phone I did hint at the little carved mouse, a signature

of the English oak furniture maker, Robert Thompson and yes it was this man Alan had in mind when commissioning his mouse, only he couldn't remember his name.

Robert Thompson - the mouse man from Kilburn, York has always been a favourite maker of mine, mostly for his chunky - stoic like, arts & crafts style. His oak furniture business is still carried on today, <<http://www.robertthompsons.co.uk/index.php>> Malcolm Enright - Editor.



From: phil@journeyjottings.com  
Date: 2 September 2010 5:03:PM  
Subject: Hickory Dickory Dock  
Hi Mal. Yes, Paul did show me

that but didn't say it was your one, a nice piece of work, tell Juan. 'Mousman' (Robert Thompson) was the first thing that came into my head when I saw it. I have seen many examples of his work and for a moment I thought it might have been by him or that he had commissioned it? I love the scale and shape, it works very well. The last time I saw some of 'Mousman's' work was when we were visiting relatives in Scotland a couple of years ago. We took a boat ride out to the bleak Farne Islands and there in tiny St Cuthberts Chapel on the oak altar table up the aisle of ornately carved pews stood two of his carved oak candlesticks and cross. It was a magic place full of all this early oak panelling and carvings, we were quite surprised to find it. I have attached a few photo's.

Thanks for sending your photo's  
Cheers Phil.





## MODERN FURNITURE & FURNISHINGS

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Always Good Timekeepers.  
Made to give satisfaction.



H 7491.—Clock, Eight-Day, Hour and Half-hour Gong Strike, Enamelled Iron, 30", 35", 37 1/2", Real Marble, 40", 45", 50".

If it is not  
in this Catalogue, maybe  
it is in our Warehouse.  
Write, asking  
particulars of  
anything you  
require.



H 7492.—Clock, Golden Oak or Walnut, Eight Day, Hour and Half-hour Gong Strike, As assorted Designs, 17 1/2, 21", 25".

A Trial Order will make you a firm Customer. Our extensive stock is characteristic of the world's best makes, whilst immediate attention to your orders is guaranteed at all times. We provide everything for the complete equipment of the Home, from simple, inexpensive designs, to the highest examples of modern Furniture.



H 7493.—Clock, Eight-Day, Hour and Half-hour Gong Strike, Enamelled Iron, 35", 40", 45", Real Marble, 50", 60", 75".

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Give us a  
call. We will  
be most  
happy to re-  
ceive you and  
show you  
round. Bring  
your Friends.



H 7494.—Clock, Eight-Day, Hour and Half-hour Gong Strike, Enamelled Iron, 27 1/2, 32 1/2, 35", Real Marble, 37 1/2, 42 1/2, 47 1/2.

GEORGE STREET,  
BRISBANE.

JOHN HICKS LTD.

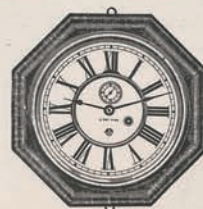
ROBINSON ROAD,  
SINGAPORE.

## MODERN FURNITURE & FURNISHINGS

### Serviceable Ansonia Clocks.



H 7591.—Novelty Eight-Day Timepiece, Bronze, from 14-6 to 20-.



H 7592.—Octagon, Eight-Day, Striking, 22-6.



H 7593.—Cabinet, Antique Oak, Eight-Day Striking, 12in. x 18in., 40-.



H 7594.—Tall, Walnut, Eight-Day Striking, 28in. - long, 60-.



H 7595.—Octagon, Eight-Day, Hour and Half-hour Strike, 26", 27 1/2, 30-.



H 7596.—Gilt, Eight-Day, 40-.



H 7597.—Bronze, Eight-Day, 17 1/2.



H 7598.—"Pirate" Alarm, 4-6, 5-6, 7-5.



H 7599.—Steel Enamelled, Eight-Day, Striking, 27-6.

GEORGE STREET,  
BRISBANE.

JOHN HICKS LTD.

ROBINSON ROAD,  
SINGAPORE.

### Some words of wisdom from Alan Hazelton in response to a comment from a new member who is only interested in English high-end fusee clocks . . .

It all started when I un-earthed all of my early retailer's catalogues in the urban-archaeology collection while researching Brisbane tinsmith's for Barbara's upcoming exhibition catalogue. I was surprised to find so many mechanical clocks in these catalogues, especially the range of Ansonias displayed in the 1909 offering from John Hicks Limited, George Street Brisbane (pic above). I've included a pic of Alan's kitchen

alcove (above) also - chock-a-block full of Ansonia and similar tall mantel time pieces, all banging away and striking the hour, one hundred years after they were sold locally for anniversary and wedding gifts.

Our new member commented on his first 'cooks tour' of Alan's house that he wasn't interested in those crappy American things.

Now Alan has housed under his green painted corrugated roof some of the very best English, Welsh & Scottish 18th, 19th and 20th century longcase, regulators, wall clocks and early U.K. lantern clocks by a string of important names but he also

packs in French, German, Swiss, Dutch, Asian and Australian clocks, mininatures, novelties, watches, stands, brackets, watch presenters and a library of reference books and horological magazines.

His response, which I had heard years ago on my first visit to his residence, when I remembered that he told me - "what happens when the sky drops" - "the banks crash and it is impossible to sell that Joseph Knibb longcase for thirty grand?, but I can always go and sell a little Ansonia for a hundred bucks and get a few feeds."

Malcolm Enright - Editor.

## Clock case restoration workshop 26 September 2010.

A warm spring morning found nine members, each armed with packed lunch, drink, chair and clock case suitable for treatment, making their ways to Cashmere for a one-day course on wood finishing and French polishing. Several of us had attended a similar session five years ago and were back for a refresher.

Instructor Marilyn Kunde, who trades as Utopia Antique Restorations had everything else prepared, including sandwiches for morning tea and cupcakes in the afternoon, as well as slabs of quilla already filled on one side, and polishing rubbers made up. The class was held in her workshop and a covered area just outside with tables set up for us to work at.

Marilyn spent most of the morning explaining the processes of stripping off old finishes, making repairs, grain filling, staining, and how to apply shellac to achieve the French Polish finish. Her techniques are largely traditional, with a few modern twists, to take advantage of modern materials on account of the Queensland climate and come from over twenty years of experience. The presentation was energetic, laced with anecdotes, and peppered with colourful language, never boring, and illustrated by using the cases we had brought for examples.

An old shellac finish can be removed using methylated spirits (but beware softening glue) and lacquer can be removed using thinners, but Marilyn buys 20 litres tins of paint stripper for most work. The softened finish is best removed with steel wool and metho, not water, in spite of the instructions on the tin.

As for repairs, she fills cracks and gaps with 2-part Techniglu mixed to a paste with wood flour from an orbital sander (2 parts adhesive, 1 part hardener, 1 part wood flour). For smaller cracks, Loctite 401 run in and followed by wood flour works well. For repairing joints, she prefers cross-linked PVA glue, like Nightingale Grasp SP1050.

Finishing the repaired case begins with filling the grain. Marilyn has a filler made up for her by Colourite. It is rubbed on using hessian and finished along the grain. When dry, the timber can be stained. Traditionally the wood was stained first and then filled, but with modern

materials you can get a better match by reversing that order.

French polish is the finish achieved by applying many thin layers of shellac using a rubber rather than a brush. It is best to buy shellac in flake form, dissolve in equal volume of metho, and filter through an old stocking. Flakes should be kept in the fridge, but solution will last a long time. A rubber consists of a carefully shaped wad of raw cotton tightly wrapped in cotton cloth like an old sheet or tee shirt and held in the palm of the hand.

After lunch it was time to try our hands at polishing both sides of a slab of quilla. One side had been filled so we could see the difference. First we used an expensive mop brush to build up an undercoat, which we then levelled with 400 grit sandpaper and 0000 steel wool. Then we dipped our rubbers in shellac solution and started to apply many coats. Marilyn says that Queensland is too hot for the figure-8 moves you see in books- just swirl along a patch and immediately even out along the grain. A quick light hand is essential, you can't ever go back. A few drops of linseed oil can help prevent sticking, but it has to be removed by progressively diluting the shellac solution until it is mainly metho. Finally we reached a point where the work needed a chance to harden and the humidity was rising as a storm threatened, so we stopped and watched Marilyn demonstrate the process of grain filling, and then the use of melted wax fillers to repair dings.

By now it was 5pm and time to pack up and head home, with encouragement, instructions to practise, and a warning to always put on the last coat the next day.

Norman Heckenberg - Web Master & NAWCC Correspondent.



## 2010 Christmas Lunch, NAWCC Chapter 104 Inc.

The Christmas function for 2010 will be held at our Clubhouse, Rocklea Show Ground on Sunday 5 December 2010 commencing at 11:30am. Spouses and partners are encouraged to attend.

The Management Committee has decided that a small charge of \$10:00 per attendee will apply to offset some of the cost. The lunch will be of a similar nature/quality as last year. Included in the \$10:00 charge will be 3 free raffle tickets per person to participate in 3 prize draws.

As there are no bar facilities in our club house members are encouraged to B. Y. O.

**Please complete the confirmation slip as soon as possible but before 30 November 2010 to enable suitable catering arrangements to be made. Use a photocopy of this page or fill out the form included in this mailout? See you there!**

### Confirmation Slip

Name .....

and .....

will be attending the Christmas function on Sunday 5 December 2010.

I am enclosing \$10:00 or \$20:00 (circle)

I have deposited \$10:00 or \$20:00 (circle)

Directly into the Chapter's Bank Account with Suncorp:  
BSB 484-799  
Account number 024317831

Please use your name as reference.

Cheques made out to NAWCC Chapter 104 Inc.

Return to: NAWCC Chapter 104 Inc, P O Box 951, Aspley, Q4034.

## General Meeting Report 3 October 2010.

The Mart was open early with some eager members arriving before 12:30 pm to snap up a good selection of bargains on offer. The articles in the mart varied from expensive/inexpensive mantle clocks, to tools from a watchmaker closing his business. There were also some mystery boxes wrapped in plastic containing all sorts of horological goodies.

Those not involved or interested in the mart had a coffee and a chat examining the growing array of workshop tools being made by Allan Roberts. He has just completed a bushing tool made from a small Asian pedestal drill, a very nice job all painted fire engine red.

The formal part of the meeting was opened at 13:25 pm by our President, Martin Willis.



The first item on the agenda was Felicia watches in Australia introduced by Tony Manton and Mervyn Whittenbury. Tony explained that Charles Spring was the sole importer of Felicia watches from Switzerland into Australia from 1949 till 1985. His talk was well supported by a varied selection of models which were projected onto the Chapter's new drop down screen for all to be able to clearly see the watches face and movements.

This segment was followed by Show'nTell with Ken Durston showing the use of cutting and polishing materials normally associated with the automotive trade being used in the rejuvenation of lacquered tambour clock cases. The results were very good. Alan Hazelton displayed an old mechanical spit with a verge escapement, a very clever idea.

A long afternoon tea followed with the Mart open once again with more items being carried out the door by their eager new owners.

Tony Roberts gave an interesting presentation supported by several

photos of a new acquisition, a Swiss Magneta master clock. He explained the workings of this complex clock along with the associated problems that confront him in its restoration and conservation.



Martin Willis discussed the NAWCC auction held in Sydney in August, and showed several photos of what was on offer in the 700 plus lots. He also discussed the upcoming Christmas function and the progress planning for the NAWCC meeting to be held in Canberra at the end of October.

The meeting was closed at 15:35 pm, but some members stayed for another hour or more chatting and some still haggling with the mart sellers to hopefully lower their prices, members reported a most enjoyable afternoon all round.

Tony Roberts.

## Felicia in Australia.

Charles Spring was the sole importer of Felicia into Australia from Switzerland, during 1949–1985. Felicia was originally a small Swiss independent maker but was now a part of the large SMH conglomerate. When questioned about Felicia being 'a middle of the road' product in terms of quality, Charles Spring replied "they were top quality and that at one stage 65% of all mechanical watches sold in Australia were Felicias".

Furthermore nearly 100% of all nurse's watches (the old upside down type they pin to their uniforms) sold in Australia were Felicias.

Obviously they were not in the top luxury bracket but they were sturdy watches using quality materials and represented good value for money.

Interestingly, Charles Spring had plans to start importing Felicias with mechanical movements again (ETA or Ronda movements, Chronos, Valjoux chronographs) in early 2000.

Tony Manton.

Three Felicias from one member's collection showing his Felicia used during his military career, her nurses Felicia (again from her military career) and the one on the right was her 21st birthday present from her parents, bought from R. H. Watson & Son, Watch Specialists and Jewellers - 99A St John Street Launceston Tasmania.





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## NOVEMBER 2010

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## JANUARY 2011

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## FEBRUARY 2011

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## MARCH 2011

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## APRIL 2011

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## Chapter 104 Program to date for 2010/2011.

From Secretary Paul Hutchinson & Workshop Co-ordinator Jim Gray.

- Sun 03 October 2010 General meeting
- Sun 07 November 2010 Workshop meeting + movie + clock of the month, a new feature: Allan Robert's Ansonia King
- Fri 12 November 2010 Pine Rivers Museum Clock display, first day
- Sun 05 December 2010 Christmas party
- Sun 15 January 2011 Workshop meeting
- Sun 06 February 2011 Annual general meeting
- Sun 6 March Workshop meeting
- Sunday 17 April 2011 Annual club auction

General Meetings, Workshop and Special Interest Group Meetings are now held at the **Chapter 104 Clubhouse, Rocklea Show Ground. UBD - Map 199 (I-6), 1430 Ipswich Road, Rocklea.**

**Use gate, corner Ipswich Service Road & Goburra Street**

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'nTell as this segment proves to be most popular.

Workshop and Special Interest Group Meetings commence 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:

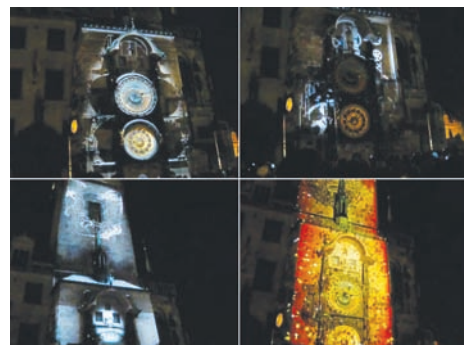
The Chapter web site address is <qldclocksandwatches.org.au>

Certain parts of the website are for members only.

The password for this area is <<chapter104>>

Currently there are only newsletters in this area.

Noreen Grahame of Grahame Galleries + Editions, Brisbane reports that the last (collectable) Richard Tipping clock is available for sale. Noreen also has a limited edition watch by this important Australian contemporary artist. The web is worth a view: < <http://www.grahamegalleries.com/>>



Mind blowing Video Mapping: Countdown to Prague's Astronomical Clock. These four snapshots are from the video of the projection onto the clock tower. Ralph Ferone in Chicago forwarded this on to the editor:

< <http://www.wimp.com/astronomicalclock/>> These art forms are created in Australia, Tim Gruchy in Sydney and New Plymouth in N.Z. is the local producer of note.

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Assitant Librarian/Key Keeper	Alan Roberts	<a href="mailto:allan-r@bigpond.net.au">allan-r@bigpond.net.au</a>	07 3277 7858

Chapter 72  
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,  
NSW commencing  
1.00pm to 5.00pm

24 November 2010  
Electrical Horology:  
Contact Graham Mitchell  
<[gmclocks@gmail.com](mailto:gmclocks@gmail.com)>

5 December 2010  
Talking Clocks:

5 February 2011  
To be advised:

Chapter 122  
Program to hand:  
Meetings are held every third  
Monday of the month at the  
Eley Park Community Centre  
Eley Road BLACKBURN  
SOUTH VIC at 8:00pm

22 November 2010  
Professor John Le Marshall:  
Chief Physicist Commonwealth  
Weather Bureau, Ex-NASA/  
NOAA and DoD Joint  
Centre for Satellite Data  
Assimilation speaking on  
Weather prediction via  
satellite and time.

4 December AAHS Annual  
Christmas Auction:

20 December Informal  
Christmas get-together and  
movie: Please bring a plate.

Chapter 182  
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

(Early) November 2010  
Introduction to Clocks  
and Watches: Their care  
and maintenance.  
(Workshop to be held in  
Roger's workshop).





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